

CABINET

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held in the Village Hall, Llandyrnog on Tuesday 22 July 2003 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; G M Kensler, Lead Member for Promoting Denbighshire; R W Hughes, Lead Member for Lifelong Learning; D M Morris, Lead Member for Communications; E A Owens, Lead Member for Finance, J A Smith, Lead Member for Social Inclusion and E W Williams, Lead Member for Economic Wellbeing.

Observers: Councillors M LI Davies, S Drew, R E Jones and P O Williams.

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive; Deputy Chief Executive / Corporate Director: Resources; Financial Controller and the County Clerk.

APOLOGIES

Councillor W R Webb, Lead Member for Property and Asset Management.

1 URGENT MATTERS

- (i) Part I - Letter from the Section 151 and Monitoring Officers to consider Best Value Review - re Minute 4 of Cabinet 24.06.2003
- (ii) Part II - Correspondence from the CEO to Jane Davidson AM regarding Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn
- (iii) Part II - Ffrith - Health and Safety / Transfer to Corporate Landlord
- (iv) Part II - Disposal of Morfa Hall, Rhyl - Item withdrawn

2 MINUTES OF THE CABINET [CABINET 2003 - 96]

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 24 June 2003 were submitted.

Item 4 - Best Value Review of Residential Care Homes: The Corporate Director: Resources presented the letter sent by himself as the Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer to Cabinet Members on 21.07.2003 seeking Members' further consideration before a final decision was made on the recommendation agreed by Council on 03.06.2003 and the decision subsequently taken by Cabinet on 24.06.2003. [He asked Members to ignore the DN note in the third paragraph on page 2 of the letter as this had been a Drafting Note which should have been omitted from the final version of the letter.] Members were informed that the decision of 24 June 2003 excluded certain options i.e. the option of partnerships with public sector housing associations and private sector companies. To eliminate options without adequate evidence could be contrary to best value legislation.

The County Clerk endorsed the Corporate Director's comments and said that any shortcomings in the process could put the Authority potentially in breach of legislation and allow the Authority to be challenged. The Authority had to ensure the way forward had been given due consideration and all options had been considered.

Councillor G M Kensler asked how many Cabinet Members were part of the Working Party and were notes of such meetings available to other Members. Councillor E A Owens said that both Councillor W R Webb and herself were part of the Working Party and the Corporate Director: Personal Services would make the notes available to Members on request. Councillor Kensler reminded Members that Councillor W R Webb had previously stated that, having spent 2 years discussing the issue, he was certain that sufficient information was available to enable a decision to be made.

Councillor P A Dobb said she was pleased to see the letter and asked that Denbighshire Councillors not only visit residential homes in similar authorities but also take the opportunity to visit the homes in question to see what works were required. Councillor Dobb said she thought over £1m was required on the service.

Councillor E C Edwards said that whilst he welcomed the letter, the issue was sensitive and the implications obvious. However, investments should be prioritised. Councillor Edwards said Conwy County Borough Council had faced and resolved similar problems. Members needed to work with officers to resolve the problems.

Councillor E W Williams said cost assessments were required before decisions were taken, also best practice in similar authorities should be compared. The third option was the original Cabinet decision.

Councillor G M Kensler asked whether the revenue costs were higher because of the enhanced terms and conditions Denbighshire staff were entitled to in comparison to the private sector.

RESOLVED that Members:-

- (a) agree the decision taken on 24.06.2003 be reviewed and Cabinet establishes, within 6 months, following visits to other Authorities, whether or not the options ruled out on 24.06.2003 represent a workable, best value solution, and*
- (b) agreed the letter from the Section 151 and Monitoring Officers be circulated to all Councillors as a matter arising from the Minutes of the last Council meeting.*

Councillor R W Hughes requested that it be noted that she abstained from voting on the above matter.

Item 11 Ysgol Tir Morfa Development Update: Members were informed that the planning application should be submitted by September 2003 and that the current site would be available for use until July 2004.

Item 12 Mwrog Street Flood Alleviation Scheme - Cost Escalation: Councillor E C Edwards again asked that the Local Members be kept regularly informed of both progress and costings of the scheme. The Corporate Director: Environment confirmed that discussions with the Welsh Assembly Government were continuing at officer level and, if required, Ministerial assistance would be sought in due course.

RESOLVED that subject to the above, the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 24 June 2003 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Deputy Leader .

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 11 July 2003 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 11 July 2003 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Deputy Leader.

PRESENTATION: IMPLEMENTING ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Councillor D M Morris informed Members that Dylan Roberts, Head of ICT was attending his last Cabinet meeting before moving to his new post in Leeds. Councillor Morris thanked Dylan for his hard work and reliability and also for that of his Department. He wished him happiness and success in the future. Dylan thanked Members for all the opportunities he had been given to progress his career and for support of both Members and officers to himself and his team.

The IEG Project Manager presented an overview of Implementing Electronic Government Achievements. The presentation mentioned the quarterly updates on progress made to the Senior Management Task Force, chaired by the Chief Executive. The Project Manager discussed:

Implementing Electronic Government [IEG] Statement; Customer Service Strategy; Information Management Strategy; Town and Community Councils Online; New Information Systems, National Land and Property Gazetteer [NLPG]; e-Human Resources System; Business Process Analysis; website; One Stop Shops, Group 44 and Consultation.

Members took the opportunity to discuss various aspects of the information presented.

The Chief Executive congratulated the ICT Department on their achievements.

For information, the slides from the presentation are attached to the minutes.

3 SCHOOL AND COLLEGE TRANSPORT [CABINET 2003 - 97]

Councillor R W Hughes presented the report for Members to:-

- 1.1 agree to fund fully the existing School and College Transport Policy for 2003/04 financial and academic year;
- 1.2 approve the extension of education transport contracts due to terminate in July 2003, December 2003 and February 2004 to April 2004;
- 1.3 determine the non-statutory elements of the existing policy to be considered for withdrawal from September 2004;
- 1.4 determine the non-statutory elements of the policy to be considered for retention, and
- 1.5 determine the Post 16 Transport policy to be applied from September 2004.

Councillor P A Dobb queried "mismatch" in paragraph 2.1 of the report. The Corporate Director: Lifelong Learning explained that the Authority's policy for the coming year had to be funded. She also emphasised the need to work closely with Environment Directorate colleagues to ensure the figures were fully transparent.

The Financial Controller, in response to a query from Councillor Dobb, explained that paragraph 1 of his statement detailed the history of the bid for additional funding for school and transport college. Of the original bid of £250k a balance of £99k had yet to be financed. The Directorate had reviewed this figure and revised it to £280k of additional funding required. The Financial Controller was unable to confirm the robustness of this figure because of concerns over the lack of suitable computer software to assist officers in controller costs, some of the procedures for committing expenditure and the nature of the contracts with bus operators. He suggested that an in depth review of software requirements, procedures and contracts was required.

Councillor E A Owens said an accountant was to be appointed before the current year end with responsibility for Lifelong Learning. Councillor Owens also said the additional costs of £280k could not be supported at this stage.

With regard to hazardous routes, A3 of Appendix A, the Transport Co-ordinating Manager said both Education and Highways officers decide on which routes are deemed to be hazardous but agreed that recording of the system was inadequate.

Members discussed the possible withdrawal of funding [b) on page 5] and it was noted that other Authorities have also considered this option. If implemented, this could have implications on Rhyl College for example if other Authorities continue to fund their students' transport to the College.

Introduction of charging [c) on page 5] was discussed and Members agreed that a comprehensive consultation and costing exercise would be required.

The Transport Co-ordinating Manager, in response to a query from Councillor G M Kensler, said the Code of Conduct [pages 11 and 12 Appendix C] regarding acceptable behaviour needed to be updated, as did Smoking on Buses which should now include reference to no alcohol, substances or drugs. However, pupils misbehaving contributed to extra costs to the Authority as some transport contractors do not wish to have to deal with behavioural problems from pupils. The Transport and Co-ordinating Manager explained that colleges pay for some transport for Denbighshire pupils. The Chief Executive suggested the implications of providing the transport funding direct to the colleges should be examined in detail.

Members were assured that Post 16 education pupils in care would be protected and still be eligible to free transport.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *Members allocate £99k of the funding shortfall to the School and College transport policy for 2003/04 and to introduce a new*

software system to assist officers manage the operation be funded from reserves;

- (b) Members approve the extension of transport contracts, including Tir Morfa School, from April 2004 to July 2004 to coincide with the end of the 2003/04 academic year;*
- (c) Members revise the existing policy with effect from September 2004 to cease the following Non Statutory elements of the existing policy:-
A.1, A.5*
- (ch) Members maintain the following Non Statutory elements of the existing policy:-
A.2, A.3 with review of hazardous routes to be carried out and recorded, A.4, A.6, A.8, A.9*
- (d) Members agree to defer the options in respect of Post 16 Transport, with a separate report being provided at a future date, and*
- (dd) Members agree that the wording of the Policy in terms of the definition of "appropriate school" be amended so that:-

1 in respect of denominational schools, free transport will be provided only where "the religious education provided is that of the religion or denomination to which [the pupil's] parent adheres", to reflect precisely the wording of section 509(4) of the 1996 Act, and

2 in respect of Welsh medium education, free transport will be provided only if the pupil is being educated wholly or mainly through the medium of Welsh whether in a designated Welsh medium or natural Welsh medium school or in the Welsh medium stream of a primary or secondary school.*

At this juncture (11.40 a.m) the meeting adjourned for 10 minutes to allow Members to participate in refreshments.

4 CUSTOMER SERVICE STRATEGY [CABINET 2003 - 98]

Councillor D M Morris presented the report seeking Members' agreement to seek specialist procurement advice to guide the Authority through the process of developing a Customer Service Strategy in line with the approach agreed at Cabinet on 24 June 2003. Members were asked to note the decision of the Head of Paid Service that the proposed Head of Customer Service post report directly to the Head of Paid Service. Members were asked to consider allocation of funding for the above. Councillor Morris reminded Members that the Strategy had been discussed in detail at the Informal Cabinet meeting held on 11.07.2003.

The Chief Executive said some of the relevant staff had been consulted regarding the Strategy. The Head of Customer Service post would have to have responsibility for the One Stop Shops which were located in the Libraries. He stressed that no decision had been taken about how best to achieve this: it would not necessarily mean transferring responsibility for the entire Library Service and, indeed, that was not his preferred option.

Councillor E W Williams said that the allocation of funding for the post would result in savings in future years. The post at Head of Service level was integral in maintaining seniority within the staffing structure and the Head of Customer Service would be expected to contribute to debates at senior officer level. Councillor Williams suggested deferring both the decision on the appointment of a Head of Customer Service until the consultations carried out could be reported in detail and location and funding of the post.

Councillor R W Hughes spoke in support of the Customer Service Strategy and said this was a great opportunity for the Authority to move forward. She stressed that One Stop Shops were only a small part of the work of the Library Service and if the One Stop Shops were to become part of another Directorate it would be a retrograde step for the Authority. If the Culture and Leisure Department were to be disaggregated Councillor Hughes said the discussions had to be held in the open.

Councillor E C Edwards supported that the Head of Customer Services, if appointed, should report to the Chief Executive but at the same time expressed his concern for the needs of the Library Service if the whole department was moved from Culture and Leisure. He suggested the appointment be deferred.

The Chief Executive assured Members and officers that there were no proposals to dismember the Culture and Leisure Department and that any such rumours should be quashed. However, the Chief Executive stressed the role was a senior level post to ensure service delivery.

RESOLVED that Members:-

- (a) agree to seek specialist procurement advice to guide the Authority through the process of developing a Customer Service Strategy in line with the approach agreed at Cabinet on 24 June;*
- (b) defer the decision on the appointment of Head of Customer Service post until the results of detailed staff and Member consultations were available to be reported to Cabinet in September 2003.*
- (c) agree the Head of Customer Service role be quantified in more detail;*
- (ch) agree a budget bid to be prepared for September 2003 for the appointment of a Head of Customer Service post, and*
- (d) agree the need for additional funding for procurement advice.*

Councillor G M Kensler abstained from voting on the item.

5 REVENUE BUDGET [CABINET 2003 - 99]

Councillor E A Owens presented the report for Members to note that, with the exception of School and College transport and Special Education Needs, all pressures identified in the latest budget performance figures for the current financial year [as detailed in the appendices to the report] should be absorbed by Services.

The Financial Controller reminded members of the Council's revised financial strategy for the year which included the building up of general balances to £2.9m by year end. This would enable the top slicing of budgets to effectively cease from next year which was useful as the Assembly settlement for Council's for 2004/5 was likely to be very tight.

The report detailed projected overspends of £569k, of which £480k was on School & College Transport and Special Education which were the subject of separate reports. The balance of pressures, £89k, were occurring in the Culture & Leisure department and Personal Services Directorate. Officers are working to identify savings to accommodate these pressures. It was pointed out that while in the past Social Services department had an excellent record for absorbing pressures in year, the uncertainty over one area of significant special funding could make the position more difficult than usual for the directorate.

Members were also advised that the last report on the Capital Programme for the current year showed that pressure was building up there as well and that any overspend at year end would fall to be funded from revenue.

RESOLVED that Members note the figures in the appendices and consider the necessary remedial actions to ensure that balances of £2.9m are achieved by the end of the current financial year.

6 THE REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 [CABINET 2003 - 100]

Councillor E C Edwards presented the report seeking Members' adoption of the Corporate Policy and Procedures that had been produced for Denbighshire County Council officers in respect of the provisions of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 attached to the report.

RESOLVED that Cabinet formally adopt the Corporate Policy and Procedures on the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 as the corporate guide for officers.

7 LOCATION OF NEW VEHICLE MAINTENANCE WORKSHOPS [CABINET 2003 - 107]

Councillor M A German presented the report seeking Cabinet agreement to the location of the proposed new vehicle maintenance workshops, to consider the latest information on costs for the workshop and note that the new depot will need to be available by August 2004.

Councillor E C Edwards said a sensible decision had been reached but that the costs of producing the information for the various reports to date on this subject should have been included within the Cost Implications in the report.

Councillor R E Jones was given the opportunity to ask questions of the Corporate Director: Environment and raised the following points: -

- the Local Members should have been consulted at an earlier stage of the process;
- the North Wales Hospital site should have been included as a possible location as there was no need for a new access road;
- the Colomendy Estate already had depots which did not have covered storage areas for large quantities of vehicles, therefore a new workshop would not detract from the area, and
- Resources Scrutiny Committee felt the consultation process was flawed and as Chair of the Committee, Councillor Jones had offered to take the Corporate Director: Environment to the various locations in Denbigh.

The Corporate Director: Environment said Local Members had been part of the consultative process and a meeting with Local Members had recently been held but unfortunately only one Member had been able to attend. The provision of a depot had now become a matter of urgency.

RESOLVED that Members note the detailed evaluation process on a range of sites at Appendix A to the report and agree that the new vehicle maintenance depot should be constructed at Kinmel Park, Bodelwyddan.

8 AREA PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY STRATEGY [CABINET 2003 - 108]

Councillor E W Williams presented the report seeking Members' approval on the progress on developing area partnerships and progressing the community strategy in Denbighshire.

Councillor R W Hughes informed Members that the Prestatyn Area Partnership Group had agreed unanimously the Scala being their priority. Councillor Hughes urged Members to allocate resources to the Groups. Members agreed a bid for resources be made in September 2003.

***RESOLVED** that Cabinet note and approves progress so far in the development of Area Partnerships and in the Denbighshire Community Strategy process and that a bid for resources be made in September 2003.*

9 DRAFT AGREEMENT ON CONSULTATION WITH TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS [CABINET 2003 - 109]

Councillor E W Williams presented the report seeking Members' approval to the draft agreement for consultation and exchange of information between the County Council and Town and Community councils in Denbighshire.

***RESOLVED** that Cabinet adopt the draft agreement as the model for consultation and sharing of information between the County Council and Town and Community Councils in Denbighshire.*

10 COHESION [CABINET 2003 - 110]

Councillor E W Williams presented the report seeking Members' approval on the County Council's position on Cohesion.

***RESOLVED** that Cabinet agree the Council's position as stated in the report.*

11 INTERNATIONAL LINKS [CABINET 2003 - 111]

Councillor E W Williams presented the report to ensure widespread dissemination of information about international visits so that portfolio Members can maximise benefits throughout the County.

Councillor R W Hughes said working with other countries was beneficial but there was a need to link in with all aspects of Council work.

The Head of Economic Regeneration said Torfaen Council were the leaders in Wales on this kind of work and they integrated such links into the Council's priorities. He also reported that contact had been made by an area of Poland which was interested in discussing matters with Denbighshire.

RESOLVED that Cabinet note the report and that in particular -

- (a) *The Council should continue to develop its membership of networks to attract Interreg funding, and*
- (b) *Relationships which produce beneficial results such as that with Alto Adige should continue to be encouraged to provide experience to Cabinet Members and staff to broaden the variety of project work being undertaken by the Council.*

12 ADOPTION OF CORPORATE ACCESS STRATEGY [CABINET 2003 - 112]

The Acting Head of Planning presented the report seeking Members' adoption of the Access Strategy.

Members expressed their concern that any new Authority buildings should meet the requirements of the Access Strategy as a matter of course.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the adoption of a Corporate Access Strategy.

13 DENBIGHSHIRE UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN [UDP] [CABINET 2003 - 113]

Councillor M A German presented the report seeking Members' approval of:-

- (i) the accuracy , status and revision of the Welsh language version;
- (ii) Policy HSG 5- Groups of houses in the countryside – the Welsh Language version, and
- (iii) Consideration of planning applications.

Councillor E A Owens referred to an earlier Planning meeting decision and asked whether the applicant could have challenged the Authority on the decision taken, as part of the English and Welsh versions of the UDP were different. The Acting Head of Planning said that although the versions had contained printing or formatting errors, the lawful version was the formal Deposit version.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *following proof reading an Addendum is printed, distributed and attached to the Welsh Language version of the adopted UDP and distributed to statutory and other relevant organisations and persons, and*
- (b) *planning applications be determined as set out using either [i] the current adopted English version or [ii] the current Welsh version with the attached Addendum-pending publication and distribution of the Addendum to the Welsh version. This includes proposals falling within the scope of UDP Policy HSG 5.*

Councillor E A Owens abstained from voting on the item.

14 PART I URGENT ITEMS

There were no Part I urgent items.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

No questions had been received.

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 1, 7, 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

PART II

15 DISPOSAL OF MORFA HALL, RHYL [CABINET 2003 - 115]

Item withdrawn.

16 CORWEN TOWN FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME - CONSULTANTS - SINGLE TENDER ACTION [CABINET 2003 - 116]

Councillor M A German presented the report seeking Cabinet endorsement of a single tender action taken in respect of procuring the services of a specialist consultant to carry out the full Project Appraisal for the proposed Corwen Town Flood Alleviation Scheme.

The Corporate Director: Environment apologised for the delay in presenting the report.

The Chief Executive agreed to circulate a reminder to all Heads of Service regarding the need to ensure all procurement services were carried out in accordance with Standing Orders.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agreed to endorse a single tender action taken in respect of procuring the services of a specialist consultant to carry out the full Project Appraisal for the proposed Corwen Town Flood Alleviation Scheme.

17 APPROVAL OF SINGLE TENDER ACTION UNDER CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS - PERSONAL SERVICES [CABINET 2003 - 117]

Councillor P A Dobb presented the report seeking Cabinet approval of a single tender action under section 6.1(d) of Contract Standing Orders.

***RESOLVED** that Cabinet endorse a single tender action taken in respect of procuring the services of a specialist consultant relating to commissioning housing, health and social care services for older people in Denbighshire.*

18 YSGOL PLAS BRONDYFFRYN [CABINET 2003 - 118]

The Corporate Director: Environment left the meeting for the discussion of this item.

The Chief Executive circulated a letter sent to Jane Davidson AM, Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning detailing the development of a proposed partnership between the Authority and the Brondyffryn Trust at the meeting held on 20.07.2003 between the Trust, some Cabinet Members and officers. The Trust had confirmed that issues relating to the Gwynfryn site and the loan had been resolved. The Trust were looking to Denbighshire for financial support towards the running and capital costs of the development. The Minister was asked to confirm the offer of WAG funding to enable the Council to proceed further.

The Chief Executive asked for Members' agreement for the Lead Member for Lifelong Learning, Leader and Lead Member for Finance to have delegated authority to make funds available to the Trust between now and the Cabinet meeting on 9 September 2003. However, the Trust had been informed that the costs incurred to date and any funding committed would be analysed and a 3 year business plan produced before any further possible funding was made available to ensure the Trust's financial position was clear.

The Corporate Director: Resources stressed that whilst the Authority was working in partnership with the Trust, the Authority had to ensure the Trust was taking any decisions correctly.

Members expressed the need to ensure all details of the partnership were made available to the Cabinet. The Chief Executive confirmed that the Trust would be reporting back on their progress by the end of August 2003 and it was hoped the partnership agreement would be signed by the end of September 2003.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:-

- (a) *note the progress to date and endorse the work programme agreed on 21.07.2003;*
- (b) *agree to defer the payment of funding to the Trust pending confirmation of the funding being made available by the Welsh Assembly Government, and*
- (c) *authorise the Lead Member for Lifelong Learning, Leader and Lead Member for Finance in conjunction with relevant officers to make any financial decisions if required prior to the Cabinet meeting on 09.09.2003.*

19 FFRITH - HEALTH AND SAFETY / TRANSFER TO CORPORATE LANDLORD [CABINET 2003 - 120]

The Corporate Director: Resources presented the report seeking Members' endorsement of urgent action required to address a number of health and safety issues at the Ffrith Festival Gardens site and to identify appropriate funding and reappropriate the site.

Members discussed the various problems associated with the site and agreed the site be secured.

RESOLVED that Members agree:-

- (a) *the site be transferred from Culture and Leisure Services to the County Landlord's Portfolio;*
- (b) *the County Landlord be directed to submit a bid in respect of funding required to manage the premises, pending its potential*

*disposal to ensure Health and Safety requirements are met,
and*

(c) *Culture and Leisure continue to manage the site on a daily basis.*

20 RESTRUCTURING OF THE ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE [CABINET 2003 - 119]

At this point, the Deputy Leader asked all officers of the Environment Directorate staff to leave the room during discussion of the item.

The Chief Executive presented the report to advise Members of the results of the formal consultation process after the issue of the Environment Directorate Restructuring report, and to consider the cost implications of the proposals as outlined on pages 3 and 4 of the report. He said that a number of staff had indicated their intentions.

The Corporate Director: Environment said the report was similar to the report provided in April 2003 and the quality of services provided would improve as a result of rationalisation. Extensive consultation had been carried out and there was now a need to minimise the timescale for processing the restructuring to ensure a minimal impact on services. He said a meeting with Unison had proved very productive.

In response to a query from Members, the Corporate Director: Environment said the report had not been to Resources Scrutiny Committee for consideration. However, the Environment Scrutiny Committee were supportive of the action but at the same time concerned for posts below Head of Service level. The Corporate Director: Environment confirmed that the restructuring process would be applied to the whole Directorate.

RESOLVED *that Members endorse the final proposals contained in the report at Appendix 1 of the report, and approve additional funding to meet the additional year 1 costs of the proposals noting the savings that will accrue to the Council in future years.*

The meeting concluded at 12.35 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2(ii)
[CABINET 2003 - 121]

CABINET

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ruthin on Tuesday 29 July 2003 at 5.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor E C Edwards, Lead Member for Safeguarding our Communities; M A German, Lead Member for Sustainable Development and Environment; G M Kensler, Lead Member for Promoting Denbighshire; R W Hughes, Lead Member for Lifelong Learning; D M Morris, Lead Member for Communications; E A Owens, Lead Member for Finance, and E W Williams, Lead Member for Economic Wellbeing.

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive; Deputy Chief Executive / Corporate Director: Resources; and the County Clerk.

APOLOGIES

Councillors P A Dobb, Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing, J A Smith, Lead Member for Social Inclusion and W R Webb, Lead Member for Property and Asset Management.

1 URGENT MATTERS

There were no urgent matters.

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

PART II

2 MANAGEMENT OF CIVIC AMENITY SITES CONTRACT AND THE KERBSIDE COLLECTION OF HOUSEHOLD AND COMMERCIAL RECYCLABLE MATERIALS [CABINET 2003 - 120]

Councillor M A German presented the report seeking approval of the appointment of the contractor named in the report to manage the Civic Amenity Sites contract and the Kerbside Collection of Household materials.

Members considered the report in the light of the comments made at Council earlier and concluded that there were no reasons produced during the Council discussion to warrant the Cabinet not to approve the contract for the period August 2003 - 31 March 2009. The placing of the contract was accordingly approved.

RESOLVED to approve the awarding of Civic Amenity Sites Contract and the Kerbside Collection of Household and Commercial Recyclable Materials to the named contractor for the period August 2003 - 31 March 2009.

The meeting concluded at 5.05 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM NO: 3 [CABINET 2003 - 122]
REPORT TO CABINET

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

DATE: 9 September 2003

SUBJECT: TRUNK ROAD AGENCY REVIEW

1. DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1 To advise Members of the proposals made by the Welsh Assembly Government in respect of the management and maintenance of the trunk road network in Wales
- 1.2 To seek comment from Members in respect of the proposals, in particular as they relate to / affect the Council, as part of the consultation process leading to this Council's formal response being made to the Assembly.

2. REASON FOR SUBMISSION OF REPORT

Although it has been known for some time that the Welsh Assembly has sought to bring about change in the way the trunk roads are managed and maintained, the formal consultation document was only circulated in late June 2003, with a return date of 29 August, 2003 (subsequently extended to 19 September, 2003).

2.1 Existing Trunk Road Agency arrangements

- Currently there are 8 Trunk Road Agents, including one for north east Wales and one for north west Wales
- The north east Wales Trunk Road Agency (NEWTRA) is a partnership of 4 Authorities ; Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham. Trunk roads which lie, in part, in Denbighshire are the A55, A5 and A494.

- ⊗ Whilst routine maintenance and traffic matters on these roads are dealt with by the Authority within whose area the work is required, specialist activities are dealt with by groups located in a single Authority. Conwy has the highway structures group, Denbighshire has the major projects (road design) group, Flintshire has the central management unit and Wrexham provides laboratory and geotechnical services.
- ⊗ The trunk road agency agreements, which were made with the Welsh Office in 1996, contain the provision that a review would be carried out after 5 years of the existing arrangements, i.e. in 2001. This was formally extended by the Welsh Assembly Government to April 2005

2.2. **Value to Denbighshire of existing arrangements (based on 2002/03 data)**

- ⊗ Revenue maintenance works expenditure - £577,000, of which £287,000 was through works carried out by Contract Services. This equates to 3-4 full time work force members, i.e. approximately 10% of the highways work force, plus 2-3 supervisor and administration posts.
- ⊗ Capital maintenance works expenditure - £1,271,000. This work is mainly carried out by external contractors, with supervision by highways staff (3-4 full time equivalent) posts. Supervision and fee income from this overall work programme amounted to £195,000

In addition, the major projects group received £254,000 fee income based on time charges. This group of 7 posts is supported almost entirely from trunk road income.

In total, this equates to between 15-18 full time equivalent posts in Highways and Transportation, Contract Services and Consultancy Services. In fact, as traffic and maintenance activities are fully integrated with similar work on County roads, the number of posts affected to some extent by trunk road income is well in excess of this.

Should this work be lost to Local Authorities as an outcome of the review, there would be a transfer to the new service provider of

affected staff under TUPE regulations. Such a transfer would have significant detrimental implications for the Council, in terms of the impact upon remaining Council service delivery and the need to cover for the loss of skilled staff from areas of currently integrated Council / Trunk Road delivery.

2.3. Welsh Assembly proposals for future trunk road agencies

- ☒ The main proposal is for the number of trunk road agents to be reduced from 8 to 3, with a single agency proposed to cover all of north Wales. The rationale behind this reduction is that of economic viability of the proposed agencies, consistency of service and standards and an assumed overall reduction in operating costs. It is also considered that this approach would allow entire linear corridors to be contained in a single agency, e.g. A55 in the north, M4 in the south.
- ☒ The new agencies would be Managing Agent (MA)/ Term Maintenance Contractor (TMC), an arrangement first utilised in England when trunk road provision was reviewed and changed. This is seen as a short term approach, with a move to Managing Agent Contractor (MAC), the form currently in place in England and Scotland, a possible longer term development. It should be noted that, although some of the MA/TMC arrangements in England were won initially by the public sector, all of the current MAC's are private sector organisations
- ☒ In conjunction with the change in number / type of agencies, the Assembly is also seeking a move towards a more performance driven, accountable form of management.
- ☒ The time scale for change is short, with the Assembly seeking a 'shadow' agency in place by April 2004, with the new arrangements fully operational by April 2005.

2.4. Progress to date in north east Wales

- ☒ A trunk road review group, which reports to the north Wales chief officers, who in turn report to the NEWTRA Joint Committee, was established in 2000 to address the structure and operations of the agency in north east Wales. As indications of the Assembly's intentions have grown stronger, the review group's brief has been amended to devise a new agency structure that would satisfy the

requirements of the Assembly. Once it became clear that the Assembly was likely to prefer a single agency for north Wales, the group was expanded to include colleagues from the north west. The group is now well on the way to having a 'model' agency for north Wales, based on a 'Managing Agent' approach. The Assembly are aware of the model being developed by north Wales and have responded positively to both the action and the outcome thus far.

- ☒ Since the consultation document was released by the Assembly, the content has been discussed by the review group, by the north Wales chief officers, by the Welsh Association of Technical Officers and at facilitated workshops attended by the Assembly and representatives of all the affected Authorities and the WLGA. The matter has also been the subject of a report to the WLGA co-ordinating committee. A number of issues have arisen in all of these areas of discussion and these are listed below.

2.5. Main factors arising in consideration of the Assembly's proposals

- ☒ Although the Assembly have been considering this matter for 2 years, and informal discussions have taken place with the existing agents, the consultation document was not released until June 2003, with a closing date for comment at the end of August. This is clearly too short a time scale for proper consideration, particularly given the time of year.
- ☒ The proposed implementation date of April 2005 (shadow arrangements in place by April 2004) is considered to be extremely optimistic and lacking in realism, given slippage in the overall process to date. A revised implementation date of April 2006 is widely felt to be the earliest realistic target.
- ☒ A report by consultants Halcrow, which accompanies the consultation document, does not demonstrate the need for significant change from existing arrangements, nor does it justify the choice of 3 agents as the preferred option. The need for change appears to have been determined by the Assembly on the basis of what has happened in England and Scotland, rather than by analysis of performance in Wales.
- ☒ Notwithstanding the above comment, the desirability of a new approach to service delivery, based on better accountability and

demonstrating value for money, is accepted in principle by the current agents and participating Authorities.

- ☒ Great emphasis is placed on the lack of performance data relating to the Welsh agents, compared with that available in England and Scotland. There has been little or no effort on the part of the Assembly to introduce equivalent systems to those employed in England and Scotland, yet the absence of this information is seen in the report to reflect badly on the trunk road agents themselves.
- ☒ The current trunk road arrangements rely on fully integrated (County / Trunk Road) service delivery by most, if not all, of the 22 Authorities in Wales. Although the Halcrow report refers to this integrated approach, it is felt that insufficient value is ascribed to the relationship and the possible impact of significant change on contributing Authorities has not been properly evaluated. The impact upon this Council, in terms of loss of income and skilled staff, is detailed in section 2.2 above. On a broader consideration, it should also be noted that, taking the situation in England and Scotland as indicative, the likely outcome of trunk road agency duties leaving the public sector would be to deliver the work to large English-based private sector contractors, with a consequential negative impact upon the economy in Wales.
- ☒ The Welsh Assembly Government has indicated, informally, that it is prepared to accept a revised arrangement based on public sector service delivery, subject to the proposed structure demonstrably delivering its requirements in terms of performance management, continuous improvement and overall reduced cost. The ability of the public sector to deliver such a service and the mutual benefits which would result, to both the Assembly and Local Authorities, are key issues to be addressed within the consultation response.

3 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

The existing trunk road agency agreement is made under the auspices of section 6.1 of the Highways Act 1980, with administration being through the medium of a joint committee of the Partnership Authorities, established pursuant to sections 101, 102 & 111 of the Local Government Act 1972.

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

Trunk road works are carried out on an agency basis on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government and, as such, are fully funded by the Assembly.

In the event that trunk road service delivery is lost by Local Authorities, there will be considerable loss of staff to the private sector, with TUPE regulations applying. Although it is not possible to evaluate the effect in financial terms, such an eventuality would certainly impact on the operational and financial viability of related services, with a consequential impact upon delivery of County highway services.

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLERS STATEMENT

The potential financial and budgetary implications for the Council will need to be reviewed as the position clarifies in the future and will need to be considered as part of the budget setting exercise for future financial years.

6 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Members of Environment Scrutiny Committee by means of a circulated report.

Relevant officers in Highways and Transportation, Consultancy Services and Contract Services
North East Wales Trunk Road Agency
Welsh Association of Technical Officers
Welsh Local Government Association

The points listed at 2.5 in this report are a distillation of all of these consultations

7 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS

The main impact of the proposed changes is in areas of employment for staff currently involved in trunk road service delivery. Retention of the service within public sector would render change relatively small. Loss of the agency arrangements to the

private sector would have significant redeployment implications (TUPE applies) for up to 15 - 20 staff.

There are also implications for delivery of service in relevant areas, i.e. highway maintenance, traffic management and street lighting, where County and Trunk Road service delivery is currently made on an integrated basis.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That Members note the intentions of the Welsh Assembly Government with regard to future service delivery arrangements for trunk roads and support the issuing of a response to the Assembly's consultation document which incorporates comments in respect of the points covered in section 2.5 of this report.

**AGENDA ITEM NO: 4 [CABINET 2003 - 123]
REPORT TO CABINET**

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

DATE: 9 SEPTEMBER 2003

SUBJECT: DECRIMINALISATION

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To seek Members' agreement to proceed with the implementation of decriminalisation of parking offences in Denbighshire.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

At its meeting on 29 October 2002 Cabinet received a report on the findings of a consultant study into the feasibility and programme for the introduction of decriminalisation of parking enforcement (DPE). Cabinet noted the consultant's findings and resolved to support a capital bid to enable the implementation of DPE. A further firm of consultants has been appointed to project manage the implementation of DPE. A draft application has been submitted to the National Assembly with an implementation date of 1 July 2004, this represents the shortest period feasible to undertake the work needed as part of the process of application and implementation of DPE. A number of decisions are required that will then be entered into the formal application to the Assembly to be submitted in January 2004. Most of the issues were considered by the consultants in the feasibility report.

The feasibility study examined options for the operation of DPE and concluded that the option which offered the greatest financial efficiency and operational flexibility, noting the requirements for the Authority to provide some aspects through its own staff, was to retain all activities in-house.

An essential element of the application process is that the Council must review its Traffic Regulation Orders to relate the parking restrictions and prohibitions more closely to the needs of DPE.

It is intended to apply for clamping and removal powers as part of the designation order. The costs involved in taking up these powers initially would be substantial. However, it would be sensible to include them in the application at this stage so that they are available in the future should the Authority wish to take them up. If they were left out a further formal application would need to be made to the Assembly in the future to assume the powers.

3 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

Section 43 of Road Traffic Act 1991.

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

The cost of implementation of DPE is approximately £181,800. It is proposed to fund this through the Council's revenue sources. In this connection an application has been made through the Additional Revenue Funding Bids process for £96,500 for the current financial and a further £85,300 for the 2004/05 financial year.

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

Final approval of the bid for additional resources for the current financial year for this project, will be considered by Cabinet in the Autumn following review by the Environment Scrutiny Committee. Funding for next financial year will be considered as part of the budget setting exercise due to begin shortly.

6 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Part of the process of applying for DPE powers includes consultation with relevant bodies.

7 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

Road safety and improvement to commercial (town centre) business premises

8 RECOMMENDATION

That Members approve:-

- (i) formally applying to the National Assembly for Wales for the powers to undertake on-street enforcement, as made possible through the powers available in the Road Traffic Act of 1991;
- (ii) a start date for powers to be 1 July 2004;
- (iii) a funding strategy, in principle;
- (iv) applying for clamping and removal powers as part of the designation order accepting that these powers will not be taken up initially;
- (v) to commence a review of relevant Traffic Regulation Orders;
- (vi) in line with the findings in the feasibility study, and as previously approved by Cabinet, to retain services in-house without open tender.

AGENDA ITEM NO: 5 [CABINET 2003 - 124]

Report to Cabinet

Report **Cllr E W Williams**

Subject **Corporate Action Plan**

Date **9 September 2003**

1. Decision Sought

1.1 To note the progress report on the Corporate Action Plan and to recommend any necessary further action.

2. Reason for Seeking Decision

2.1 Council agreed that the corporate action plan within the Improvement Plan would be regularly monitored by the Cabinet.

2.2 Attached is an appendix which updates Members on each of the key actions.

2.3 Members will note that, in general, most of the actions are being addressed, but certain issues stand out for comment.

- The capital receipts target is demanding, and failure to meet it will impact on the Council's capacity to deliver on its capital programme.
- Lack of clarity from the National Assembly on the current capital funding and the subsequent prudential borrowing regime is hampering the task of putting together a clearly resourced programme.
- The more pragmatic approach of the Audit Commission in Wales to Best Value reviews will allow for a more realistic approach to be adopted for the scoping of reviews, thus increasing the possibility of review completion within a reasonable time scale.
- The reinstatement of the Risk Management Group following the end of work associated with the Whole Authority Analysis will have implications for the way policy decisions are assessed leading to

a more informed discussion on the consequence of decision making and service planning.

3. Power to make Decision

3.1 Local Government Act 1999 Part I - Best Value Legislation.

4. Cost Implications

4.1 See Financial Controller statement.

5. Financial Controller Statement

5.1 The cost implications of the various elements of the action plan will be reviewed as part of the budget setting exercise for next financial year. The implications for the capital programme of the slippage in the delivery of capital receipts and the delayed clarification of the prudential borrowing regime will also be considered at this time.

6. Consultation Carried Out

6.1 This report was put together in consultation with relevant Corporate Directors.

7. Impact on other Policy Areas.

7.1 The aim of this plan is to address the major corporate risks facing the authority as identified through the Whole Authority Analysis. As corporate risks they affect the running of the Authority and the development and delivery of the Authority's policy priorities.

8. Recommendation

8.1 To note the progress report on the Corporate Action Plan and to recommend any necessary further action.

Corporate Action Plan

APPENDIX 1

“The programme below will be kept under review with this initial prioritisation of work being subject to capacity. The Plan will be monitored by Cabinet and the Corporate Executive Team who will make adjustments as necessary to ensure its delivery.” (Improvement Plan 2003)

Action	Lead Responsibility	Timescale	Resource Required	Link To Corporate Themes	Update
<p>Review of revenue budgets to ensure expenditure reflects current priorities and ensure current expenditure is correctly analysed. In addition, there is a requirement to improve financial reporting</p> <p>Urgent Priority B</p>	<p>Corporate Director: Resources</p>	<p>2003/2004</p>	<p>1 additional experienced accountant for 9 months £40k Revenue</p>	<p>Underpins successful delivery of all priorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ First Round of meetings to review current year’s financial position is currently taking place. This process will result in recommendations for the allocation of funding for 2004/05 in line with the Council’s priorities, as agreed in July ◆ Currently recruiting Accountants to strengthen Management Accounting team ◆ Temporary Accountants recruited to review current funding and school transport ◆ Financial regulations being revised to reflect current structures and will be supported by a process to ensure compliance
<p>Develop a rolling three year capital plan to ensure priorities are supported and take advantage of additional funding opportunities (Sales Proceeds, Prudential Borrowing)</p> <p>Urgent Priority B</p>	<p>Corporate Director: Resources</p>	<p>2003/2004</p>	<p>No additional resources required</p>	<p>Underpins successful delivery of all priorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Service Asset Management Plans are being reviewed and updated to form the basis for a three year programme. This Review of capital requirements will be carried out in tandem with the review of revenue budgets (see above). <p>The process of matching funding to requirements, however, is being hampered by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A lack of clarity from the National Assembly regarding the level of capital funding ◆ Prudential borrowing – timing and operational details are still not clear. ◆ Capital receipts targets slipping.

Action	Lead Responsibility	Timescale	Resource Required	Link To Corporate Themes	Update
<p>Ensure County property assets meet agreed DDA requirements</p> <p>High Priority A</p>	Corporate Director: Resources	2003/04 and 2004/05	Capital funding of £1.5m previously identified, although this is now considered not to be totally sufficient	Essential to comply with legislative requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The work required has been identified in the capital programme. ◆ Capital provision has been made in 2003/04 and 2004/05. ◆ Measures are in place to ensure that the Authority becomes compliant with the legislation.
<p>Development and implementation of Single Status</p> <p>Urgent Priority C</p>	Head of Personnel	2003/2004 – Analysis Future Years implementation implication not yet evident	Additional resource already identified and budgeted	Implementation of Single Status is a national initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Job Analyst position advertised internally, closing date 22/08/03 ◆ Discussions with Unions ongoing
<p>Develop a Communication Strategy</p> <p>Urgent Priority C</p>	Public Relations Manager	2003/04	Main demand is on staff time. Additional funding of up to £20k may be required	Communication of all Council activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ National Graduate Trainee work programme includes assistance with BV review. ◆ Review will commence October 2003. ◆ Early meeting held with ACIW to discuss scoping. ◆ Agreed the need to produce a manageable review which can be delivered within a reasonable timescale e.g. 6 months
<p>Development of more reliable and timely personnel information, including procurement and implementation of computerized personnel and payroll system</p> <p>High Priority C</p>	Head of Personnel	2003/04 and two following years	Capital cost exceeds £200k. Revenue costs of £25k pa for licences. The system will also require new ways of working	Underpinning strategy to provide workforce required to meet future priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Tender document prepared ◆ Delays in preparing OJEC notices [following closure of WNWPO] now overcome

Action	Lead Responsibility	Timescale	Resource Required	Link To Corporate Themes	Update
<p>Continued improvement in accuracy and timeliness of performance management information across the whole authority. Finalisation of the Performance Management Framework</p> <p>High Priority A & C</p>	<p>Senior Management and the Performance Management and Business Planning Manager</p>	<p>2003/04</p>	<p>Additional resources may be needed in certain areas to help develop better data collection</p>	<p>Performance Management System is major source of performance data to drive improvements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Corporate Performance Management Group set up. ◆ Targeted training for specific areas has been delivered. ◆ Improvements in quarterly reports noted. ◆ Statutory indicator progress report introduced. ◆ PI database almost complete. ◆ Performance Management Handbook due to be finalized October 2003.
<p>Improve ability to carry out Best Value Reviews</p> <p>High Priority B & C</p>	<p>Senior Management and Performance Management and Business Planning Manager</p>	<p>2003/04</p>	<p>Flexibility to appoint external consultants – approx £50k per year</p>	<p>Ability to undertake Best Value Reviews effectively is important in order to achieve service improvements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Review rationalisation will enable increased support to review teams. ◆ Greater use of external consultants to improve reviews. ◆ Monitoring of review progress by Corporate Governance
<p>Develop Risk Management and Business Continuity Strategies (including in-house systems that need replacing)</p> <p>High Priority B & C</p>	<p>Head of Internal Audit and Risk Manager</p>	<p>2004/05</p>	<p>Strategies may identify actions that need funding</p>	<p>Supports the ability to maintain continuity of service delivery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Risk management group will be reinstated following the end of WAA process. ◆ The Policy & Strategy Document has been redrafted and will be discussed at Corporate Governance Cttee on 2/9/03 together with a presentation by the Head of Internal Audit and the Risk Manager. ◆ First meeting of Risk Management Group due to be held on 8 September 2003. ◆ Agreed that risk assessment will be built into service plans. ◆ New system of assessing Council decisions in terms of risk will be introduced.

Action	Lead Responsibility	Timescale	Resource Required	Link To Corporate Themes	Update
Develop Project Management capacity High Priority B & C	Head of Personnel	2003/04	Training of staff £5k. Consider additional posts to undertake projects	Maintain ability and capacity to deliver local and statutory requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Two levels of Project Management have been identified, Prince 2 and Project Management Methodology with Microsoft Project ◆ A Project Management Team has been developed and currently being recruited in-house by secondment. Funding from Lifelong Learning to cover the first two years working on a variety of Education projects
Produce Community Plan Urgent Priority A	Principal Policy Officer and Area Partnership Managers	2003/04 to 2004/05	No additional resources required	Major WAG initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Progress reported on to last Cabinet.
Funding in place to maximize Objective 1 opportunities in line with priorities High Priority A & B	Head of Economic Regeneration	2003/04	Capital match funding. Additional revenue funding to support projects	Objective I offers major opportunity to attract external funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Capital match funding - £150,000 allocated from Basic Credit Approval for 2003/04 ◆ Additional revenue funding - £50,000 bid to be made for match funding for future INTERREG projects for 2004/05 budget
Reduce absence levels Medium Priority C	Senior Management and Head of Personnel	2003/04	No additional resources required	Greater operational efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Authority wide training programme for all managers has taken place ◆ Absence figures for first quarter of 2003/04 indicate slight reduction. ◆ Meeting with relevant Line Managers using system has taken place to understand what additional training/processes/amendments are required to Policy ◆ Meeting with Union to be arranged in September which will be facilitated by ACAS
Introduce Code of Corporate Governance Medium Priority B & C	Corporate Director: Resources	2003/04	No additional resources required	Modernising Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Draft Corporate Governance Plan prepared, which will be presented to Corporate Governance Committee, Cabinet and Council from October

Action	Lead Responsibility	Timescale	Resource Required	Link To Corporate Themes	Update
Development of a Procurement Strategy and provision of resources to ensure compliance with legislative requirements Urgent Priority B	Performance Management and Business Planning Manager	2003/04	Funding in place for 2 posts. Third post may be required	Effective procurement ensures financial benefits. Also need to ensure procurement is consistent with Council priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Draft strategy sent out for consultation ◆ Procurement posts due to be advertised.

AGENDA ITEM NO: 6 [CABINET 2003 - 125]

REPORT TO: CABINET

DATE: 9 SEPTEMBER 2003

REPORT BY: COUNCILLOR M A GERMAN, LEAD MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT

SUBJECT: GM FREE STATUS

1. DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 For Cabinet to consider the implications attached to making Denbighshire a GM free County, as detailed in this report.

2. REASON FOR SEEKING THIS DECISION

2.1 At Council on 29 July 2003 it was agreed that Denbighshire County Council should be declared a GM free Zone. The purpose of this report is to enable cabinet to understand the likely implications of this decisions and determine what measures may be necessary to implement the Council's wishes.

2.2 I enclose an article by Friends of the Earth for information as it illustrates many of the points made during the Council debate.

2.3 The chief impacts will be in the following areas:

Area	Impacts
School Meals Ensuring that all school meals do not contain any GM material	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Authority would need to be able to guarantee the absence of GM material. E.g. by ensuring all current contractors comply with the Council's wishes.• It should be noted, however, that the Council could only be assured where GM crops have been identified. It is impossible

Area	Impacts
<p>Health and Social Care Services</p>	<p>to guarantee the complete absence of such materials.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point 51.31 in document 2 of the current School and Welfare Catering Contracts reads: “The Council will not accept foodstuffs or their constituent ingredients which are the product of a genetically engineering process or which have been subject to genetic modification. The Council reserves the right to review this matter at any time” <p>This point will be included in any future school meal catering contract. Therefore there are no implications to be considered in this area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent nursing and residential home owners may seek to pass on costs to the council if we insist on a change for our clients. • Including Community Living projects raises questions about an individuals right to choose. Clients in Community Living may choose to eat more ‘affordable’ food. Social Services has a responsibility to support the choice of clients and cannot impose County Policy on them. • Difficulty of enforcing the policy on Foster Care arrangements.

Area	Impacts
Leisure and Cultural Facilities that provide cafeteria facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely other implications for other care services e.g. Meals on wheels • All the council's residential homes operate on the principle that we do not knowingly use GM foods and seek to avoid them. Suppliers are not always able to confirm that their products are GM Free and therefore notices are displayed in eating areas to highlight this information. • Each individual leisure and cultural facility is responsible for purchasing its own foodstuffs. The implication of this is the need to ensure that there is consistency with the supplier that each facility uses. Suppliers to each facility should be providing GM Free foodstuffs only.
Agricultural Estates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A ban on growing of GM crops on our estates. • Use of GM material in animal feed. • The implication of changing existing leases - would the policy be applied only for newly agreed agricultural leases?

2.4 From the above it can be seen that the principal issues relates to non school catering which is organised in an adhoc way and the agricultural estates.

3 POWER TO MAKE DECISION

- 3.1 Brussels has recently delivered an edict that countries should not declare themselves GM Free and Wales was cited as an example. This could have a negative impact on public support and perception.
- 3.2 Wales can have an area ban on GM Free crops but this needs to be looked at area by area and crop by crop.

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There may be cost implications deriving from the council's policy decision which are difficult to assess at the present time. Although there are no cost implications attached to school meal services, there may be a cost implication within the Personal Services Directorate and the agricultural estate.
- 4.2 We could try to establish the costs of change by surveying existing service providers and suppliers to
- a) ask about their current practice
 - b) ask whether they would be prepared to adopt a GM free approach
 - c) and, if so, whether there would be any associated cost with that.

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

- 5.1 Any cost implications resulting from this policy will need to be reviewed annually as part of the budget setting exercise.

6 CONSULTATION TO BE CARRIED OUT

- 6.1 Full Council supported GM free status for Denbighshire on 29 July 2003.

7 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

- 7.1 This decision will impact on food provision in leisure and health facilities, it will have environmental implications and also financial implications on purchasing, leasing and changing legislation across the County. Food that is exempt from food labelling may also derive from Genetically Modified foodstuffs.

8 RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 That Members consider these implications and advise on how the Authority can implement the recommendation made by Full Council.



GM Free Welsh Local Authorities

July 2003

GM-Free Welsh Local Authorities

Synopsis

- The Farmers Union of Wales, the National Federation of Women's Institutes - Wales, GM Free Cymru and Friends of the Earth Cymru have formed an alliance and are asking all Welsh Local Authorities to take steps towards becoming GM-free areas.
 - There is scientific evidence that growing GM crops will pose a threat to the natural environment and lead to gene stacking, with the creation of superweeds.
 - GM crops pose a serious threat to organic and non GM farming; as things stand, organic farmers and farmers whose non GM crops are contaminated by GM crops will have no right to financial compensation.
 - The British Medical Association has raised concerns over the potential health effects of GM organisms.
 - Local Authorities can declare their areas GM-free and ensure that no GM crops are grown on land which they control. They can also adopt a GM-free policy for all goods and services for which they are responsible;
 - In addition, legal advisers to Friends of the Earth consider that local authorities can use the European Deliberate Release Directive (2001/18/EC) to apply to stop GM crops being grown in their area.
-

Background

The Government is expected to decide later this year whether or not to allow GM crops to be commercially grown across the UK. If such approval were to be granted, it would lead to widespread GM contamination of our food, crops and environment, and would remove people's right to choose food free from GM content. The stance of the Welsh Assembly continues to be to apply the most restrictive approach consistent with EU legislation.

Against this background, the Farmers' Union of Wales, the National Federation of Women's Institutes - Wales, GM-Free Cymru, and Friends of the Earth Cymru are inviting all Welsh Unitary Authorities to take steps towards becoming GM-free areas. Our alliance is supported by Merched Y Wawr, The Organic Strategy Group, The Soil Association, Welsh Beekeepers Association, Welsh Black Cattle Society, The West Wales Ecocentre and Y Urdd.

Rationale for GM-Free Areas

The creation of GM-free areas is an essential element in the development of robust local food economies and a sustainable farming sector. There are diverse reasons for resisting the commercial introduction of GM crops, some of the most important being:

- Growing of GM crops is very likely to affect the local environment and wildlife. Gene stacking, leading to the creation of "superweeds", is an outstanding concern. For example, an extensive study commissioned by English Nature of GM herbicide-tolerant oilseed rape crops in Canada (English Nature research report no. 443) revealed that genes from separate GM varieties can accumulate in plants that grow from seed spilled

at harvest (volunteer plants). In Canada these plants are now resistant to several widely used herbicides and are in effect on the road to becoming nuisance weeds.

- The Welsh Assembly has recently planned to increase support to organic farming. GM crops pose a serious threat to organic farming. As the number of organic farms increases, it is inconceivable that any GM crop could be placed between them without contamination. This could lead to removal of organic status, as organic standards do not allow GM contamination. As things stand, farmers so affected have no right to financial compensation.

- There is currently no legal obligation for biotechnology companies to clean up the local environment if a GM crop or food is found to be unsafe. Local authorities may find that they have responsibility for dealing with such situations.

- Few toxicology tests have been conducted, despite the fact that the United Nations and the British Medical Association (BMA) have called for careful toxicology and allergy tests prior to the release of GM organisms. In November 2002 the BMA concluded "There has not yet been a robust and thorough search into the potentially harmful effects of GM foodstuffs on human health. On the basis of the precautionary principle, farm scale trials should not be allowed to continue." There is also the issue of antibiotic resistance, regarding which the BMA concluded: "Antibiotic resistance 'markers' help identify GM plants and there is evidence that these genes may be transferred to non-GM plants. There is a significant risk that antibiotic resistance markers may progress through the food chain, possibly into pathogenic organisms causing human disease."

- The public overwhelmingly reject GM crops and food. According to a recent MORI poll (February 2003), 56% of British people oppose GM food compared to only 14% who support it. An NOP survey in October 2002 showed that 57% do not want the Government to allow GM crops to be commercially grown across the UK. According to a 2001 survey, 94% of Europeans want the right to choose whether to eat GM food and 71% do not want to eat it at all (Guardian, 2 July 2002).

Siôn Aron of the FUW has commented, "The advantages to Wales of remaining GM free are apparent. The public, on the whole, is sceptical of GM technology and would rather eat GM-free food. Wales can gain a marketing advantage from remaining GM-free which we could never achieve through the use of GM products."

Role of Local Authorities

We are calling on local authorities to take steps to protect their area from GM crops, thereby supporting organic and sustainable food production.

When a local authority declares its intention to be GM-free there are certain concrete measures that it can take in order to help realise that aspiration. These include ensuring that the services they provide, such as school meals and catering are free of GM ingredients, and ensuring that any land over which they have control is not used for the growing of GM crops.

The Legal Framework

In addition to, and separately from, declaring their area GM free, Local Authorities have a new legal tool they can use to help them achieve their desire to be GM free - Article 19 of the Deliberate Release Directive (Directive 2001/18/EC).

In the opinion of Friends of the Earth legal advisers, local authorities can use Article 19(3)(c) to ask the Secretary of State and the National Assembly to seek a "geographical area" exemption from specific GM crops. While this Article cannot be used to gain blanket protection against all future GM crops, it may be used on a case-by-case basis each time that an application for marketing consent is made to the Commission.

Provisions of Article 19, Deliberate Release Directive

Article 19(1) of the Directive provides that a GMO can only be used "so far as...the environments and/or geographical areas stipulated in these conditions are strictly adhered to".

Article 19(3)(c) requires that any Part C consent must "[in all cases, explicitly specify]...conditions for the protection of particular ecosystems/environments and/or geographical areas".

Using Article 19 – what local authorities can do

Each type of GM crop needs its own Part C (marketing) Consent. Each time that a Part C Consent application is made, the Secretary of State can object to the consent being granted or can argue that, if the Consent is granted, it should be subject to certain stipulated conditions. Local authorities are in a position to examine each Part C consent in question and to write to the Secretary of State to seek protection for their particular geographical area against the proposed marketing consent for that crop.

Local authorities in Wales should also write to the Assembly's Agriculture Minister since the National Assembly is the "competent authority" dealing with deliberate GM releases in Wales, and will thus have a significant role in presenting objections to the European Commission.

Finally, we believe that the local authority should also write directly to the Commission about each prospective Part C consent during the 30-day comment period, thereby ensuring that comments do reach the decision makers at the Commission level.

Responses to the Commission should be made by email via the Joint Research Council website, email to gmoinfo-comments@jrc.it. Website at http://gmoinfo.jrc.it/partc_browse.asp.

The argument for seeking a "geographical exemption" for an area is strengthened when the reasons for seeking the exemption are related to the environment or human health, especially when they reflect the specific character or concerns of that area.

Such specifically local concerns can include:

- The amount of land under organic management
- The number and size of designated wildlife habitats
- The number of bee keepers
- The presence of wild relatives of GM crops
- The number of food businesses engaged in local and added value food

production

- The terms of any local sustainability or community plans and the objectives of any local biodiversity action plan
- The numbers of farmers who produce their own farm-saved seeds
- National Parks, Sites of Special Scientific Interest or other specially protected areas
- The value of the area's natural environment and organic agriculture to the local tourist industry
- presence of rare species in any habitat
- number and length of quality water courses
- extent use of ground water

Friends of the Earth is currently producing some environmental information which will help local authorities make their case for "geographical exemptions". Contact Julian Rosser at Friends of the Earth Cymru for more information.

Some people have tried to argue that local authorities do not (generally) have the power to declare their area GM Free or to ask the Secretary of State to protect their area. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 gives all local authorities very broad powers to do anything which it considers is likely to promote or improve the environmental wellbeing of its area. Declaration of GM Free status might fall into this category. In addition, the Courts recognise that local authorities are entitled to take into account ethical considerations when making decisions (the most well known case in this area is a Court of Appeal decision which concerned a local authority's decision to ban deer hunting on its land).

Local authorities which have passed GM-free resolutions include Flintshire, Pembrokeshire, Cornwall, South Gloucestershire, South Hams, Devon, Dorset, Lancashire, Penwith and West Dorset (although not all of these authorities' resolutions refer to Article 19 of the Deliberate Release Directive).

We enclose a Draft Resolution, which will be of use to you when considering and adopting a policy on this issue. If you need any help or advice on this, please contact Julian Rosser.

Friends of the Earth's legal team are happy to help any councillors to draft appropriate wording for a GM-Free resolution and to advise on any letters to the European Commission, DEFRA and the Welsh Assembly.

Draft Resolution for Local Authorities

This Council recognises that:

- Genetic modification of crop plants is a relatively new branch of science and technology.
- There is still scientific debate about the safety of GM crops.
- The commercial growing of GM crops presents legal, economic, social and ethical problems that have not yet been properly addressed.

This Council therefore declares that the County/District/City of [...] will, so far as is possible, be kept free of GM crops and GM food and feed. Further, the Council recognises that there are issues of particular concern to the people of [...] and of particular importance to the protection of the environment of [...]. These include:

[Insert specific areas of concern relevant to your area – see pages 3-4]

The Council therefore commits itself:

1. to ensuring that no GM crops are grown on land over which it has control;
2. to adopting a GM-free policy for all goods and services for which the Council is responsible;
3. to consider, in respect of each Part C Marketing application (under Directive 2001/18/EC), the potential adverse impacts of the proposed GM Crop on [name of Authority] and having done so to request (where appropriate) the European Commission (directly and through the Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs and the Agriculture Minister at the National Assembly) to exclude the geographical area of [...] from the ambit of such a Consent under Art. 19(3)(c), in order to protect the distinctive environment of [...] and to protect the integrity of [...] as a GM-free area.

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AGENDA ITEM NO: 7 [CABINET 2003 - 126]

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR P A DOBB, LEAD MEMBER
FOR HEALTH & WELLBEING

DATE: 9 September 2003

SUBJECT: HOUSING MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

1 DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 To further extend the contract for Repair and Maintenance of Housing Stock.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 The major contract for responsive Housing Repairs and General Maintenance.

2.2 The contract was allocated to Denbighshire Contract Services in 1998 following voluntary competitive tendering.

2.3 The contract was for a period of four years commencing in October 1998 with a specific option to extend once only for 12 months by mutual consent.

2.4 The option to extend from 1st October 2002 to 30th September 2003 was reported to and accepted by Cabinet in December 2001. Any further extension is, therefore, not specific within the contract but can be agreed by both parties. There is no longer any requirement for compulsory competitive tendering.

2.5 The contract has been satisfactory and it has not been necessary to impose any penalties.

2.6 This decision is affected by the current discussions on possible transfer of the Council's housing stock and by a Best Value Review of performance indicators in Housing Maintenance which is due to commence in September 2003. It is, therefore, logical

to consider a further extension of the contract until March 2005 to allow the contract to conclude in line with the Council's year end and to allow the position on transfer to be clarified.

- 2.7 Contract Services are able to comply with this extension subject to formal approval.

3 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

- 3.1 Housing Act 1985, Part II, Section 9.

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Prices for the extended contact period would be fixed in accordance with agreed inflation indices and would be affordable within the Housing Revenue Account.

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

- 5.1 The proposals in this report are not expected to have an adverse impact on the projected balances for the Housing Revenue Account.

6 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 6.1 Consultations with contractors and also the Denbighshire Tenants' & Residents' Federation in accordance with the Tenants' Compact, all comments were supportive.

7 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

- 7.1 Consideration of Housing Stock Transfer will not be seriously affected either way by a further temporary extension. The Best Value Review of Housing Maintenance can proceed without constraints.

8 RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 That in accordance with Schedule 1, Document 4, item 1.8 of the agreement for the Repair and Maintenance of Housing Stock, the contract period be extended for a further 18 months from 1 October 2003.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: Lead Cabinet Member for Finance

DATE: 9 September 2003

SUBJECT: Capital Outturn – 2002/03

1 DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 To update Members on the capital outturn for 2002/03 and to approve statutory determinations.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 It is a requirement under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 for Members to approve determinations in connection with the financing of capital expenditure for each financial year.

3 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

3.1 Part IV of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

5.1 The detailed analysis of outturn is included in the attached appendix.

6 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

6.1 None

7 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

7.1 The level of capital payments and the use of capital resources impacts on all the Council's policies.

8 RECOMMENDATION

8.1 The report and determinations be approved.

Capital Outturn 2002/03

1.0 Background

- 1.1 A report was presented to Council at its meeting of 18 March 2003 addressing the 2003/04 Capital Plan together with providing details of the anticipated outturn for the 2002/03 programme of capital works.
- 1.2 A summary of estimated and actual capital payments for the year is presented at Appendix 2. The summary categorises payments between: -

	Revised Estimate £000s	Actual Payments £000s
General Schemes	9,856	7,363
Specially Financed Schemes	15,777	12,568
Housing Revenue Account	2,630	2,616
	-----	-----
Total	28,263	22,547
	-----	-----

- 1.3 The Housing Revenue Account and Specially Financed Schemes have resources earmarked to projects. Payments in the year were fully matched with resources. Special funding not utilised in 2002/03 has been carried forward to finance associated scheme payments to be incurred in 2003/04. A number of special funding approvals were obtained towards the end of the financial year. In these cases spending has been incurred which has been fully matched with special funding resources although a budget is not shown in Appendix 2 as this information was not available at the time when the report to Council in March was prepared.
- 1.4 General Schemes are financed from the Basic Credit Approval and General Capital Grant, the usable element of capital receipts together with any capital reserves that may have been established. Any resulting deficit must be financed from Revenue.

1.5 General payments were considerably less than the revised estimate, the main factors being:

- Slippage.
- Certain Block Allocations being re-instated at the year end.
- Provisions for Claims and Capitalisation not being required.

1.6 Payments were fully financed from available resources and it has been possible to carry forward into 2003/04 the remaining resources to match the payments falling due in that year.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 That the contents of the report be noted.

2.2 The Local Government and Housing Act (1989) places a duty on local authorities to have made determinations in relation to certain capital items by 30 September of the following financial year. These are presented at Appendix 3.

Capital Outturn - 2002/3		General	Special	Total	General	Special	Total	Variance Over/ -Under		Total	
		Funding	Funding	Capital	Funding	Funding	Capital	General	Special	Variance	
		Budget	Budget	Budget	Outturn	Outturn	Outturn	Funding	Funding		
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Environment - Highways & Transportation											
2002/3		Flood Damage Reinstatement - SWG	430,000	534,000	964,000	416,333	1,010,370	1,426,703	-13,667	476,370	462,703
2001/2	Rollover	Flood Damage - Horseshoe Pass SCA		265,000	265,000		226,355	226,355	0	-38,645	-38,645
2002/3		Flood Prevention Schemes - NAW 85%	395,000	534,000	929,000	455,855	197,948	653,803	60,855	-336,052	-275,197
2002/3		Structural Maintenance, Bridges etc...	1,000,000		1,000,000	842,459		842,459	-157,541	0	-157,541
2001/2	Rollover	Sea Defence Works	30,000	50,000	80,000			0	-30,000	-50,000	-80,000
2002/3		Sea Defence Works		10,000	10,000			0	0	-10,000	-10,000
2002/3		Rhydwen Drive - Renewal of Lighting Columns	75,000		75,000	56,821		56,821	-18,179	0	-18,179
2001/2	Rollover	Local Road Maintenance Grant		372,000	372,000		371,698	371,698	0	-302	-302
2002/3		Local Road Maintenance Grant		825,000	825,000		386,530	386,530	0	-438,470	-438,470
2001/2	Rollover	Local Road Safety Grant		12,000	12,000		12,046	12,046	0	46	46
2002/3		Local Road Safety Grant		146,000	146,000		178,349	178,349	0	32,349	32,349
2001/2	Rollover	WDA Schemes		348,000	348,000		238,174	262,994	0	-109,826	-109,826
2002/3		WDA Schemes			0	235	39,504	39,739	235	39,504	39,739
2001/2	Rollover	Transport Grant		750,000	750,000		450,297	450,297	0	-299,703	-299,703
2002/3		Transport Grant		1,019,000	1,019,000		499,273	499,273	0	-519,727	-519,727
			1,930,000	4,865,000	6,795,000	1,771,703	3,610,544	5,407,067	-158,297	-1,254,456	-1,412,753
Environment - Public Protection & Community Services											
2002/3		Housing Improvement Grants	1,900,000	63,000	1,963,000	1,711,710	232,787	1,944,497	-188,290	169,787	-18,503
2002/3		Public Conveniences Refurbishment Programme	129,000		129,000	123,609		123,609	-5,391	0	-5,391
2001/2	Rollover	Playgrounds Improvement Programme	96,000	50,000	146,000	93,690	50,000	143,690	-2,310	0	-2,310
2002/3		Playgrounds Improvement Programme	150,000		150,000	122,552	2,638	125,190	-27,448	2,638	-24,810
2002/3		Renewal Areas		2,742,000	2,742,000	483	1,904,552	1,905,035	483	-837,448	-836,965
2002/3		Strategic Housing Schemes		1,201,000	1,201,000		507,297	507,297	0	-693,703	-693,703
			2,275,000	4,056,000	6,331,000	2,052,044	2,697,274	4,749,319	-222,956	-1,358,726	-1,581,681
Environment - Economic Regeneration											
2001/2	Rollover	Business Development Grants	84,000		84,000	37,421		37,421	-46,579	0	-46,579
2002/3		Business Development Grants	105,000		105,000		44,352	44,352	-105,000	44,352	-60,648
2001/2	Rollover	Denbighshire Financial Support Programme	25,000		25,000			0	-25,000	0	-25,000
2002/3		Denbighshire Financial Support Programme		233,000	233,000		192,013	192,013	0	-40,987	-40,987
2002/3		Community/Rural Key Fund		392,000	392,000	2,451	150,524	152,976	2,451	-241,476	-239,024
2001/2	Rollover	Industrial Sites	283,000		283,000	64,834		64,834	-218,166	0	-218,166
2002/3		Industrial Sites	56,000	1,777,000	1,833,000	37,878	1,841,122	1,879,000	-18,122	64,122	46,000
2002/3		76-82 West Parade			0		458,669	458,669	0	458,669	458,669
2002/3		Marine Lake			0		176,325	176,325	0	176,325	176,325
2002/3		DUNE			0	1,049	926	1,975	1,049	926	1,975
2001/2	Rollover	Denbigh Town Hall			0		147,914	147,914	0	147,914	147,914
			553,000	2,402,000	2,955,000	143,634	3,011,845	3,155,479	-409,366	609,845	200,479

Capital Outturn - 2002/3			General Funding Budget	Special Funding Budget	Total Capital Budget	General Funding Outturn	Special Funding Outturn	Total Capital Outturn	Variance Over/ -Under		Total Variance
			£	£	£	£	£	£	General Funding	Special Funding	£
Environment - Planning Services											
2001/2	Rollover	Town Schemes	3,000		3,000	887		887	-2,114	0	-2,114
2002/3		Essential Planning Software	81,000		81,000	34,629		34,629	-46,371	0	-46,371
2002/3		Denbigh THI	95,000		95,000	52,868	315,767	368,635	-42,132	315,767	273,635
			179,000	0	179,000	88,383	315,767	404,150	-90,617	315,767	225,150
Environment - Design & Construction											
2002/3		Agricultural Estates		266,000	266,000		182,694	182,694	0	-83,306	-83,306
2002/3		Property - Block Allocation	150,000		150,000	125,058	3,699	128,758	-24,942	3,699	-21,242
2002/3		Health & Safety - Requirements - Safety Glass	140,000		140,000			0	-140,000	0	-140,000
2002/3		Health & Safety - Requirements - DDA	60,000		60,000	20,152		20,152	-39,848	0	-39,848
2002/3		Canol Y Dre - Provision of Office Accomodation	125,000		125,000			0	-125,000	0	-125,000
2001/2	Rollover	Park Rd Depot, Ruthin - Demolition		37,000	37,000		43,799	43,799	0	6,799	6,799
2001/2	Rollover	Corporate Property Database	110,000		110,000	71,555		71,555	-38,445	0	-38,445
2001/2	Rollover	Prestatyn CCTV	4,000		4,000	3,741		3,741	-259	0	-259
2001/2	Rollover	Rhyl CCTV			0		1,392	1,392	0	1,392	1,392
2001/2	Rollover	46 Clwyd Street Office Improvements	5,000		5,000	576		576	-4,424	0	-4,424
2001/2	Rollover	Ty Nant Landscaping	25,000		25,000	25,000		25,000	0	0	0
2002/3		Lon Parcwr Depot, Ruthin			0		217,746	217,746	0	217,746	217,746
2002/3		Lifeguard Factory, Ruthin			0		10,861	10,861	0	10,861	10,861
2002/3		Meliden Goods Shed			0		14,781	14,781	0	14,781	14,781
			619,000	303,000	922,000	246,082	474,971	721,053	-372,918	171,971	-200,947
Total - Environment			5,556,000	11,626,000	17,182,000	4,301,846	10,110,402	14,437,068	-1,254,154	-1,515,598	-2,769,752

Capital Outturn - 2002/3			General	Special	Total	General	Special	Total	Variance Over/ -Under		Total
			Funding	Funding	Capital	Funding	Funding	Capital	General	Special	Variance
			Budget	Budget	Budget	Outturn	Outturn	Outturn	Funding	Funding	
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Lifelong Learning - Schools											
2001/2	Rollover	Furniture	1,000		1,000	1,000	31,871	32,871	0	31,871	31,871
2001/2		New Deal and Additional Capital Grant	168,000		168,000	59,922	99,261	159,182	-108,079	99,261	-8,818
2002/3		Plas Brondyffryn - Key Stages 3&4 and 1&2	7,000	2,000,000	2,007,000		628,368	628,368	-7,000	-1,371,632	-1,378,632
2002/3		Ysgol Brynhyfryd - Science Laboratory	25,000		25,000	21,535		21,535	-3,465	0	-3,465
2002/3		Ysgol Penmorfa - Access Improvements	21,000		21,000	22,446		22,446	1,446	0	1,446
2002/3		Integrated centres			0		124,309	124,309	0	124,309	124,309
2002/3		Mobiles			0	108,318		108,318	108,318	0	108,318
2002/3		Project 10 & 11 Group - 6 Gordon Ave - Disabled Toilets & Fire Exit	30,000		30,000	29,810		29,810	-190	0	-190
2002/3		School Buildings Improvement	1,100,000		1,100,000	1,097,575		1,097,575	-2,425	0	-2,425
2003/4		School Buildings Improvement Grant		1,193,000	1,193,000		734,614	734,614	0	-458,386	-458,386
		Middle Lane Telephone System	2,000		2,000	2,056		2,056	56	0	56
			1,354,000	3,193,000	4,547,000	1,342,661	1,618,422	2,961,083	-11,339	-1,574,578	-1,585,917
Lifelong Learning - Culture & Leisure											
2001/2	Rollover	Loggerheads Flood Damage	19,000		19,000			0	-19,000	0	-19,000
2001/2	Rollover	Loggerheads Country Park - Interpretation Centre	39,000		39,000	9,830		9,830	-29,170	0	-29,170
2001/2	Rollover	Llangollen Leisure Centre	28,000		28,000	28,044		28,044	44	0	44
2002/3		Llangollen Old Chapel	48,000	182,000	230,000	11,717	62,800	74,517	-36,283	-119,200	-155,483
2002/3		Plas Newydd - Garden Restoration	70,000	130,000	200,000	30,027	58,094	88,121	-39,973	-71,906	-111,879
2002/3		Rhyl Leisure Centre - Community Access Project	18,000	62,000	80,000	11,994	40,154	52,148	-6,006	-21,846	-27,852
2002/3		Castell Dinas Bran Reconsolidation			0		17,371	17,371	0	17,371	17,371
2002/3		Ruthin Gaol - Archive Refurbishment & Visitor Centre	409,000	443,000	852,000	425,167	397,337	822,503	16,167	-45,663	-29,497
2002/3		Scala Cinema - Feasibility Study			0	1,976		1,976	1,976	0	1,976
			631,000	817,000	1,448,000	518,754	575,755	1,094,510	-112,246	-241,245	-353,490
Total - Lifelong Learning			1,985,000	4,010,000	5,995,000	1,861,416	2,194,178	4,055,593	-123,584	-1,815,823	-1,939,407
2002/3	Personal Services - HRA			2,630,000	2,630,000		2,615,757	2,615,757	0	-14,243	-14,243
Personal Services - Strategic Planning											
2001/2	Rollover	Adaptations to homes of disabled	9,000		9,000	9,555		9,555	555	0	555
2002/3		Adaptations to homes of disabled	80,000		80,000	80,000		80,000	0	0	0
2001/2	Rollover	Social Services - Client IT System (Care.com)	130,000		130,000	98,733		98,733	-31,267	0	-31,267
2001/2	Rollover	West Rhyl Community Strategy	34,000		34,000	28,685		28,685	-5,315	0	-5,315
2002/3		Rhyl Gateway (Communities First)			0		57,870	57,870	0	57,870	57,870
			253,000	0	253,000	216,973	57,870	274,844	-36,027	57,870	21,844
Total - Personal Services			253,000	2,630,000	2,883,000	216,973	2,673,628	2,890,601	-36,027	43,628	7,601

Capital Outturn - 2002/3			General	Special	Total	General	Special	Total	Variance Over/ -Under		Total
			Funding	Funding	Capital	Funding	Funding	Capital	General	Special	Variance
			Budget	Budget	Budget	Outturn	Outturn	Outturn	Funding	Funding	
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Corporate & Miscellaneous											
2001/2	Rollover	Mobile Translation Equipment	5,000		5,000			0	-5,000	0	-5,000
2002/3		Committee Management System	35,000		35,000	30,680		30,680	-4,320	0	-4,320
2002/3		Denbigh Cash Office	30,000		30,000	25,150	4,527	29,677	-4,850	4,527	-323
2002/3		e - Government		141,000	141,000		110,634	110,634	0	-30,366	-30,366
2002/3		Local Area Networks - Broadband			0		51,894	51,894	0	51,894	51,894
2001/2	Rollover	Community Projects - Block Allocation	100,000		100,000	94,282		94,282	-5,718	0	-5,718
2002/3		Community Projects - Block Allocation	430,000		430,000	84,957		84,957	-345,044	0	-345,044
2001/2	Rollover	Match Funding - Block Allocation	68,000		68,000	24,820		24,820	-43,180	0	-43,180
2002/3		Match Funding - Block Allocation	100,000		100,000	42,000		42,000	-58,000	0	-58,000
2001/2		Provision for Claims	356,000		356,000			0	-356,000	0	-356,000
2001/2	Rollover	Provision for Grant Clawback	46,000		46,000	46,459		46,459	459	0	459
2002/3		PFI Offices - Provision for fees and associated works (net costs)	600,000		600,000	634,872		634,872	34,872	0	34,872
2002/3		Provision for Capitalisation of Revenue Expenditure	200,000		200,000			0	-200,000	0	-200,000
2002/3		Magistrates Courts			0		38,034	38,034	0	38,034	38,034
			1,970,000	141,000	2,111,000	983,219	205,090	1,188,309	-986,781	64,090	-922,691
Total Payments - All Services			9,764,000	18,407,000	28,171,000	7,363,454	15,183,296	22,571,571	-2,400,546	-3,223,704	-5,624,249
Contingency Provision			92,000		92,000			0	-92,000	0	-92,000
Total Payments - Capital Plan			9,856,000	18,407,000	28,263,000	7,363,454	15,183,296	22,571,571	-2,492,546	-3,223,704	-5,716,249
Finance :											
Basic Credit Approval			4,420,000	1,164,000	5,584,000	4,420,000	1,164,000	5,584,000	0	0	0
General Capital Grant			3,696,000		3,696,000	2,943,454		2,943,454	-752,546	0	-752,546
Supplementary Credit Approvals				7,632,000	7,632,000		1,869,802	1,869,802	0	-5,762,198	-5,762,198
Capital Receipts			1,116,000	1,132,000	2,248,000		958,599	958,599	-1,116,000	-173,401	-1,289,401
Capital Reserve			351,000		351,000			0	-351,000	0	-351,000
Capital Contributions				265,000	265,000		404,629	404,629	0	139,629	139,629
Capital Grants			273,000	8,214,000	8,487,000		10,599,464	10,599,464	-273,000	2,385,464	2,112,464
DSO Reserve					0		21,905	21,905	0	21,905	21,905
Capital Expenditure charged to Revenue Account					0		164,897	164,897	0	164,897	164,897
			9,856,000	18,407,000	28,263,000	7,363,454	15,183,296	22,546,751	-2,492,546	-3,223,704	-5,716,249

Determinations to be made under Part IV of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989.

The following matters are required formally to be determined in respect of 2002/03: -

- 1) Under s.42 (2) (g), a determination is required if expenditure for capital purposes which is to be reimbursed, or met out of money provided, by any other person is to be capitalised.

The amount of capital expenditure financed by grants and contributions totalled £13,947,548.

- 2) Under s. 56 (1), a determination is required if a credit approval is to be used:
 - a) as authorisation to capitalise expenditure.
 - b) as authorisation to enter into or vary a credit arrangement.

Expenditure capitalised under credit approvals amounted to £7,453,802.

No credit arrangements were entered into or varied during the year.

- 3) Under s. 56 (2), a determination is required if a credit approval is in whole or in part to be transferred to another authority.

No credit approvals were transferred during the year.

- 4) Under s. 60 (2), a determination is required if usable capital receipts are applied:
 - a) to meet expenditure incurred for capital purposes, or
 - b) as (voluntary) provision for credit liabilities.

Capital receipts of £ 958,599 were applied to finance capital expenditure in the year.

- 5) Under s. 63 (1), a determination is required for the amount (being not less than the required minimum revenue provision for the year) to be set aside from revenue as provision for credit liabilities.

The minimum revenue provision consists of two elements:

<i>Housing Revenue Account</i>	<i>337,433</i>
<i>County Fund</i>	<i>3,643,216</i>

AGENDA ITEM NO: 9 [CABINET 2003 - 128]

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: Lead Member for Finance.

DATE: 9 September 2003

SUBJECT: Revenue Outturn – 2002/2003

1 DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1 To advise Members of the Revenue Outturn position for 2002/03.
- 1.2 To recommend to County Council the establishment of the Reserves and the carry forward of service budget underspends into 2003/04 as referred to in this report.
- 1.3 To further recommend to Council the suspension of Standing Orders requiring the carry forward of the overspend on the Lifelong Learning directorate and fund this sum in year.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

- 2.1 The Council's Corporate Policies and Priorities require the Council to build general reserves to £3m by March 2005 with a revised target of £1.9m by the end of March 2003.

3 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

- 3.1 Local Authorities are required under section 151 of the Local Government Act (1972) to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The final Revenue Outturn figures are detailed in Appendix 1, with the Housing Revenue Account Outturn being presented at Appendix 2 [copy to follow].
- 4.2 The provisional Revenue outturn report presented to Cabinet at its meeting of 20 May indicated that General Balances were expected to amount to £1.896m at the year end. The final outturn shows a slight improvement on this position with balances (excluding year

end budget saving recommended to be carried forward) standing at £1.912m.

4.3 Reserves totalling £1.060m have been established for the following purposes:

- Denbighshire's share of the closedown of the Wirral & North Wales Purchasing Organisation (£0.335m)
- Residual costs associated with the North Wales Child Abuse Inquiry (£0.100m)
- The establishment of a Major Events Reserve to build up by annual contributions the sum requested as support for the Urdd Eisteddfod in 2007 (£0.060m)
- The cumulative impact of an adjustment to the Minimum Revenue Provision for Debt Redemption relating to the Commutation of Revenue Grant payments (£0.565m).

4.4 In accordance with the Council's Constitution service underspends can be carried forward from one financial year to the next, subject to a review of performance. The amounts recommended to be carried forward amount to £0.191m and are identified against each Directorate in Appendix 1.

4.5 The constitution also requires that service budget overspends be carried forward as a first charge against the following year's budget. The Lifelong Learning Directorate had an overspend of £525k at 31 March 2003, but it is recommended that this sum be contained from within the surplus funding for last year. Standing orders would therefore need to be suspended in this case.

4.6 The budgets for individual schools are ring fenced with surpluses and deficits at year end also carried forward. The overall position for schools at year end was an increase in expenditure over budget of £136k with a resulting reduction in schools balances. These now stand at £595k.

4.7 The final position of the Housing Revenue Account compared with budget will be shown in Appendix 2 [copy to follow].

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

- 5.1 The Council's Corporate Policies and Priorities require the Council to build reserves to £3m by March 2005. Careful budget monitoring and control must continue to be exercised in order to ensure that this objective is achieved.

6 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 6.1 Lead Cabinet Members have consulted on an ongoing basis with Heads of Service to agree the necessary remedial action required to deliver the outturn position.

7 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

- 7.1 The level of funding available together with budgetary performance impacts upon all services of the Council.

8 RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 That Members note the final revenue outturn position for the year ended 31 March 2003
- 8.2 That Members recommend to Council the establishment of the reserves detailed in 4.3 above
- 8.3 That Members recommend to Council the carrying forward of the service budget underspends as detailed in Appendix 1
- 8.4 That Members recommend to Council the suspension of Standing Orders relating to the carrying forward of overspends relating to the Lifelong Learning Directorate and fund the sum involved from increased funding in year.

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Final Revenue Account 2002/03**

	Budget	Outturn	Variance Over/ - Under	Budget Carried Forward
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Directorate Expenditure:				
Life Long Learning				
- Schools Devolved	35,606	35,742	136	
- Other Education	9,157	9,682	525	
- Culture & Leisure	5,600	5,600	0	0
Environment	18,084	18,039	-45	45
Personal Services	23,559	23,519	-40	40
Resources	4,675	4,631	-44	44
Chief Executive including Legal	2,053	1,993	-60	60
Corporate	2,717	3,098	381	2
Benefits	775	666	-109	
Total Directorate Expenditure	102,226	102,970	744	191
Centrally Controlled				
- Capital Financing Charges	10,210	9,670	-540	
- Precepts & Levies	4,130	4,113	-17	
	116,566	116,753	187	
Contribution to General Balances	910	1,998	1,088	
Contribution from Schools Balances	0	-136	-136	
Contribution to/ -from Reserves	1,060	1,060	0	
Total Net Expenditure	118,536	119,675	1,139	
Funding:				
Revenue Support Grant	76,767	76,767	0	
Business Ratepayers	18,088	18,088	0	
Council Taxpayers	23,681	24,820	1,139	
Total Funding	118,536	119,675	1,139	

Analysis of General Balances:

	£000
Balance Brought Forward	201
Less 2001/02 Budget Underspend Carry Forwards	-96

Contribution to Balances	1,998

Total Balance Carried Forward	2,103
Less 2002/03 Budget Underspend Carry Forwards	-191

Net Balance Carried Forward	1,912

Analysis of Schools Balances:

	£000
Balance Brought Forward	731
Contribution to Balances	-136

Balance Carried Forward	595

Housing Revenue Account 2002/03

	Original budget	Revised budget	Final out-turn	Note
	£	£	£	
Expenditure				
Supervision & Management General	690,650	717,750	739,488	
Supervision & Management Special	187,250	187,250	200,411	
Welfare Services	574,725	588,125	546,009	
Homelessness	77,915	77,915	71,616	
Rents	422,565	422,565	414,950	
Repairs & Maintenance	2,435,320	2,435,820	2,555,034	1
<hr/>				
Total Management & Maintenance	4,388,425	4,429,425	4,527,508	
Rent rebates	5,090,472	5,068,486	5,235,212	2
Debt charges	1,700,000	1,593,220	1,576,216	
C.E.R.A.	0	100,000	100,000	
Provision for bad debts	0	400,000	450,000	3
<hr/>				
Total expenditure	11,178,897	11,591,131	11,888,936	
<hr/>				
Income				
Rents (net of voids)				
- Dwellings	8,524,014	8,696,902	8,728,859	4
- Garages	78,000	86,433	84,863	
Interest (R.T.B. mortgages)	20,000	20,000	17,265	
Subsidy	2,556,173	2,884,857	2,937,677	5
<hr/>				
Total income	11,178,187	11,688,192	11,768,664	
<hr/>				
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	-710	97,061	-120,272	
Balance at the beginning of the year	185,808	189,070	421,574	6
<hr/>				
Balance at the end of the year	185,098	286,131	301,302	
<hr/>				

Notes**1 - Repairs & Maintenance**

Increased joinery, building and plumbing costs, offset by reduction in electrical works, decorating and voids repairs. Overall increase of £119k on revised budget.

2 - Rent Rebates

Higher final outturn compared to revised budget explained by :

- Omission in 2001/02 of overpayment of rent rebates included in revised estimate, but shown in Balance at the beginning of the year at Final Outturn (see 6 below);
- increase in rent rebates granted as a result of THB awards.

3 - Provision for Bad Debts

Increased provision in line with CIPFA guidance on Provision for Bad Debts.

4 - Rents (Dwellings)

Includes £24k of recovered court costs not included in revised budget.

5 - Subsidy

Higher Final Outturn arising from increased rent rebates granted as a result of THB awards noted at 2 b) above.

6 - Balance at the beginning of year

Final Outturn includes prior year adjustment for omission in 2001/02 of overpayment of rent rebates and recovery of court costs.

AGENDA ITEM NO: 10 [CABINET 2003 - 129]

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: Councillor A Owens - Lead Cabinet Member for Finance.

DATE: 9 September 2003

SUBJECT: Revenue Budget 2003/04

1 DECISION SOUGHT

That, with the exception of School and College transport and Special Education Needs, all pressures (as detailed in the attached appendices) that cannot be offset by compensating savings or income to the Council should be absorbed by services.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

The need to deliver the Council's agreed budget strategies.

3 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

Local Authorities are required under section 151 of the Local Government Act (1972) to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

The projections undertaken based on budget monitoring at the end of July show current pressures on services at £479k (£569k at the end of June).

The pressures identified in respect of School & College Transport have been the subject of a special report to the July Cabinet at which it was agreed to fund £99k. Further work is to be undertaken to identify measures to improve the budgetary position for this service. A special report in respect of the Special Education budget pressures is also to be presented to Cabinet.

The Department for Works and Pensions has revised its formula for financing Housing Benefit fraud investigation work. This has led to a reduction in income to the Council of £100k. This can be offset by a further anticipated increase Council Tax yield which has been achieved due to work undertaken in the Finance Department in improving performance in Council Tax collection.

The remaining pressures will need to be contained within existing budgets.

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The Council's financial strategy for the year requires balances to be built up to £2.9m by the year end. Services have again identified pressures which (with the exception of School and College Transport and Special Education Needs) must be accommodated within existing budget provisions by adjusting spending priorities. Any adverse deviation from agreed budgets will endanger achievement of this objective.

6 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Lead Cabinet members are consulting on an ongoing basis with Heads of Service to agree necessary remedial action to prevent overspends in 2003/04.

Service Scrutiny Committees will review bids for funding for one off and spend to save proposals shortly.

7 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

The level of funding available to services together with budgetary performance impacts upon all services of the Council.

8 RECOMMENDATION

That Members note the figures in the appendices and consider necessary remedial actions to ensure that balances of £2.9m are achieved by the end of the current financial year.

MONTHLY BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2003/04

Summary of Pressures

POSITION AS AT END JULY 2003

Directorate	- Year to Date -			- 2003/04 Totals -				Projected Variance (Previous Report)
	Budget Profile	Actual to End Jul 03 Plus Commitments	Variance (Increase/ - Saving)	Budget As per Budget Book	Budget As at End Jul 03	Projected Outturn	Variance (Increase/ - Saving)	
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	
Lifelong Learning (excluding schools delegated)	5,492	4,071	-1,421	16,899	17,392	17,785	393	502
Environment	6,232	5,715	-517	18,613	19,128	19,128	0	0
Personal Services	9,652	9,525	-127	25,852	26,647	26,733	86	67
Chief Executive	795	696	-99	2,243	2,240	2,240	0	0
Resources	2,130	2,207	77	4,937	5,007	5,107	100	0
Corporate, Miscellaneous & Benefits	3,963	4,254	291	3,870	3,124	3,124	0	0
	28,264	26,468	-1,796	72,414	73,538	74,117	579	569
Non - Service Items:								
Contingency				100	929	929	0	0
Capital Financing Charges/Investment Income				11,283	11,624	11,624	0	0
Precepts & Levies				4,435	4,435	4,435	0	0
Contribution to Balances				1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0
Additional Council Tax Yield						-100	-100	0
				89,232	91,526	92,005		
						Total Variance	479	569

Note: The Management Accounting rules of the Council require debtor account entries to be reversed in respect of amounts outstanding for more 30 days after the due date. In the event that debts cannot be collected Services will be required to meet the cost of the debt write-off. This may impact on the actual outturn achieved by Services at the year end.

**MONTHLY BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2003/04
LIFELONG LEARNING
POSITION AS AT END JULY 2003**

	- Year to Date -		
	Budget Profile	Actual to End Jul 03 Plus Commitments	Variance (Increase/ - Saving)
	£000s	£000s	£000s
Individual Schools Budget	14,897	13,949	-948
School Funds Held Centrally	3,144	1,683	-1,461
Non school Funding	109	397	288
Leisure Services	1,097	930	-167
Culture	742	758	16
Countryside	226	181	-45
Youth	174	122	-52
	5,492	4,071	-1,421
Total Lifelong Learning	20,389	18,020	-2,369

- 2003/04 Totals -			
Budget As per Budget Book	Budget As at End Jul 03	Projected Outturn	Variance (Increase/ - Saving)
£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
39,975	39,975	39,975	0
10,004	10,452	10,809	357
388	388	412	24
3,086	3,132	3,126	-6
2,414	2,427	2,433	6
434	434	439	5
573	559	566	7
16,899	17,392	17,785	393
56,874	57,367	57,760	393

Projected Variance (Previous Report)
£000s
0
456
24
8
7
7
0
502
502

Notes:

Comments	Current Month £ 000s	Previous Month £ 000s
Education		
<u>Pressures</u>		
<u>School Funds Held Centrally</u>		
School Transport - Balance of bid for additional resources - Approved by Cabinet 22 July 03	Nil	99
Impact of variations since budget setting	157	157
	157	256
SEN - Balance of bid for additional resources	200	200
	357	456
<u>Non School Funding</u>		
College Transport - per report to Cabinet	24	24
	24	24
<u>Culture and Leisure</u>		
<u>Leisure Services Pressures</u>		
Increase in Licensing Fees	2	8
Staff advertising savings	-6	0
Swimming Development Programme - Increased Income	-2	0
	-6	8
<u>Cultural Services Pressures</u>		
Increase in Licensing Fees	1	2
Extension of the Peoples' Network Programme- reduced NOF funding	5	5
	6	7
<u>Countryside Services Pressures</u>		
Statutory Local Biodiversity Action Plan	7	7
Additional Grant Income	-2	0
	5	7
<u>Youth</u>		
Backdated Superannuation Contribution	7	0
Directorate Total	393	502

MONTHLY BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2003/04
ENVIRONMENT
POSITION AS AT END JULY 2003

	- Year to Date -		
	Budget Profile	Actual to End Jul 03 Plus Commitments	Variance (Increase/ - Saving)
	£000s	£000s	£000s
Consultancy Services	865	836	-29
Economic Regeneration	479	441	-38
Highways and Transportation	1,581	1,443	-138
Planning Services	297	225	-72
Public Protection & Regulatory Services	2,640	2,474	-166
Support Services	253	207	-46
Contract Services	117	89	-28
Total Environment	6,232	5,715	-517

- 2003/04 Totals -			
Budget As per Budget Book	Budget As at End Jul 03	Projected Outturn	Variance (Increase/ - Saving)
£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
1,095	1,225	1,225	0
914	952	952	0
6,697	6,734	6,734	0
935	935	935	0
7,903	8,193	8,193	0
797	817	817	0
272	272	272	0
18,613	19,128	19,128	0

Projected Variance (Previous Report)
£000s
0
0
0
0
0
0
0
0

**MONTHLY BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2003/04
PERSONAL SERVICES
POSITION AS AT END JULY 2003**

	- Year to Date -			- 2003/04 Totals -				Projected Variance (Previous Report)
	Budget Profile	Actual to End Jul 03 Plus Commitments	Variance (Increase/ - Saving)	Budget As per Budget Book	Budget As at End Jul 03	Projected Outturn	Variance (Increase/ - Saving)	
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	
Children Services:								
Children and Families Services	1,787	1,780	-7	4,094	4,529	4,637	108	106
Community Development	89	65	-24	274	261	255	-6	-6
Performance Management & Support	155	136	-19	381	449	449	0	0
Adult Services:								
Intake A & C M (North)	1,958	2,247	289	5,333	5,382	5,889	507	650
Preserved Rights/RCA	1,149	937	-212	3,404	3,489	3,172	-317	-376
Intake A & C M (South)	1,287	1,222	-65	3,772	3,821	3,567	-254	-166
Adult Services (Provider)	1,949	1,875	-74	5,682	5,677	5,584	-93	-80
Performance Management & Support	738	645	-93	1,515	1,983	1,952	-31	0
Business Support & Development	508	551	43	1,313	983	1,069	86	-129
Non HRA Housing	32	67	35	84	73	159	86	68
Total Personal Services	9,652	9,525	-127	25,852	26,647	26,733	86	67

Children and Families

As in 2002/03, Fostering will be the major drain on the 2003/04 budget.

Intake A & C M (North & South)

North, South, Preserved Rights and RCA should be looked at as a whole as virements are required.

No full decision has yet been made re the allocation of the DTOC money.

Full year effect of RCA still unclear, spend shown is a conservative estimate.

Also further legislative changes to RCA to take place in October.

Learning Disabilities budget pressure circa £450k.

Adult Services - Provider

Elderly Residential Services continue to be a major pressure area circa £150k.

Potential savings from Llys Marchan mortgage circa £80k.

Business Support & Development.

Pressure areas include IT and central telephone recharges due to budget shortfalls.

MONTHLY BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2003/04
CHIEF EXECUTIVE, RESOURCES, CORPORATE & MISCELLANEOUS
POSITION AS AT END JULY 2003

	- Year to Date -			- 2003/04 Totals -				Projected Variance (Previous Report) £000s
	Budget Profile	Actual to End Jul 03 Plus Commitments	Variance (Increase/ - Saving)	Budget As per Budget Book	Budget As at End Jul 03	Projected Outturn	Variance (Increase/ - Saving)	
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	
Chief Executive's Dept	795	696	-99	2,243	2,240	2,240	0	0
Resources Directorate:								
Finance	1,184	1,222	38	2,115	2,185	2,285	100	0
Audit	114	126	12	299	299	299	0	0
I.T	580	651	71	1,649	1,649	1,649	0	0
Personnel	252	208	-44	874	874	874	0	0
Total	2,130	2,207	77	4,937	5,007	5,107	100	0
Corporate & Miscellaneous Benefits	325	588	263	3,386	2,340	2,340	0	0
	3,638	3,666	28	484	784	784	0	0
Total	3,963	4,254	291	3,870	3,124	3,124	0	0
Total Chief Executive's, Resources, Corporate & Misc. and Benef	6,888	7,157	269	11,050	10,371	10,471	100	0

NOTE :Finance Department Budget Pressure:

- 1) Housing Benefits - The Department for Work & Pensions has revised its formula for financing benefit fraud investigations leading to a reduction in income to the Council.
- 2) Council Tax Yield Increase - The improvement in performance of the Local Taxation Unit is expected to deliver a further £100k of income to the Council in the form of additional Council Tax Yield.