

## **CABINET**

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held in the Independent Room, Council Offices, Ruthin on Thursday 29 April 2004 at 9.00 a.m.

### **PRESENT**

Councillors 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; E A Owens, Lead Member for Finance; J A Smith, Lead Member for Social Inclusion, W R Webb, Lead Member for Property and Asset Management and E W Williams, Lead Member for Economic Wellbeing.

### **ALSO PRESENT**

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

### **APOLOGIES**

Councillors P A Dobb, Lead Member for Health & Wellbeing; R W Hughes, Lead Member for Lifelong Learning and D M Morris, Lead Member for Communications and the County Clerk.

### **1177 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 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.*

## **PART II**

### **1178 OBJECTIVE ONE AND RHYL GOING FORWARD**

Councillor E W Williams presented the report seeking support for an application to the West Wales and the Valleys Objective One Programme for resources to carry forward the town centre regeneration of Rhyl and to support eligible retrospective applications to the Programme.

Councillor E C Edwards, as Chair of the Objective 1 Executive said he supported the recommendation in principle but asked that the Capital Plan be given further full consideration as a matter of urgency. The Head of Development Services informed Members that it would take some time to give precise figures whilst the Corporate Director: Environment confirmed that any application made to WEFO without match funding in place would not be considered. The Head of Development Services said strong representations had been made to WEFO with regard to match funding and it was expected that WEFO would discuss match funding with the Welsh Assembly Government. He also confirmed that if the final project costs were higher than agreed in the report, Denbighshire would be looking to the Welsh Assembly Government to fund the difference or Denbighshire would need to consider paring down scheme costs.

Councillor E A Owens informed Members that this year again, trading surplus from Contract Services [the former DSO] would be available to support Capital expenditure which would allow the first year's costs of the Programme [i.e. £150k] to be met, and should ensure that no items currently in the Capital Plan would be displaced.

The Corporate Director: Resources reminded Members that the Authority had to ensure that every project within the Capital Programme was adequately and properly funded in accordance with Statutory financial requirements.

Councillor W R Webb expressed his support for the project but was also concerned regarding any slippage in the Capital Plan, with particular emphasis to projects in the South of the County like the ELWa Project. The Corporate Director: Lifelong Learning confirmed that a partnership with colleges for the ELWa project was now in place but that the ELWa funding was time restricted.

The Financial Controller indicated his concern that the £1.6m funding gap mentioned in the report was the minimum required to be set aside. He agreed there was a danger of costs escalating but it was also possible that additional funding could become available or a scheme could be pared down to meet the costs.

The Corporate Director: Environment, in response to a query from Councillor G M Kensler, said revenue implications had been costed out that there was no requirement for additional revenue funding and the Drift Park Scheme had been designed to meet conditions in a maritime environment.

With regard to the Retrospective Projects, Councillor E C Edwards suggested that the Objective 1 Executive should discuss the projects at an early date.

Members agreed a Cabinet meeting be convened before 18 May 2004 to discuss the Capital Plan.

**RESOLVED** that Members agree: -

- (a) *the application for Town Centre Regeneration Objective One funds be supported and Council recommended to make provision in its Capital Plan for 2004-2007 for £1.6m as per the schedule in section 4 of the report;*
- (b) *maximum use be made of retrospective applications to generate match funding for Rhyl and Denbighshire regeneration projects generally, and*
- (c) *a Special Cabinet meeting be held before 18 May 2004 to discuss the Capital Plan.*

The meeting concluded at 9.30 a.m.

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