

CABINET

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held in the Dean's Library, St Asaph on Monday 10 May 2004 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT

Councillors P A Dobb, Lead Member for Health & Wellbeing; E C Edwards, Lead Member for Safeguarding our Communities; R W Hughes, Lead Member for Lifelong Learning; 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.

Observers: Councillor D M Holder.

ALSO PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Councillors M A German, Lead Member for Sustainable Development and Environment, D M Morris, Lead Member for Communications and E W Williams, Lead Member for Economic Wellbeing and the Chief Executive.

1248 URGENT MATTERS

There were no urgent matters.

1249[i] MINUTES OF THE CABINET

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 20 April 2004 were submitted.

Item 13 A CCTV - North Denbighshire Upgrade Project: Councillor E C Edwards asked whether any progress had been made with a delegation from Denbighshire to meet with the Chief Constable and Police to achieve a partnership solution. The Assistant Chief Executive: Strategy confirmed that the Chief Executive was in the progress of making the arrangements.

Item 14 Eirianfa: The County Clerk referred to discussions with the Eirianfa Association regarding the 10% discounted rent for the duration of the lease recorded by way of a side letter. He reminded Members that the Association should not walk away from their responsibilities and officers considered the obligation to the Council as their landlord should match the liability of the Trustees to the Association. Members agreed to delete "as recorded by way of side letter" in Resolution (b).

The Deputy Chief Executive / Corporate Director: Resources, on behalf of the Chief Executive, suggested Members consider the financial options of lease or disposal again at the Cabinet meeting on 25.05.2004. Councillor E A Owens said the offer already made to the Association had been fair and as the Association had not accepted the offer, officers should continue now with disposal. Members agreed a further report as outlined at the meeting, be provided for the Cabinet meeting to be held on 25.05.2004.

Item 17 Approval of Single Tender for Replacement of Digital Printer: Councillor E A Owens asked that the Resolution be amended to include Members' agreement to the supply of a colour printer as detailed in the report.

RESOLVED that subject to the above, the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 20 April be approved as a correct record and signed by the Deputy Leader.

1249[ii] MINUTES OF THE CABINET

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 29 April 2004 were submitted.

Although not at the meeting, Councillor R W Hughes asked that a caveat be included with regard to funding schemes. She expressed concern that Prestatyn was not being treated fairly and had to sell property before getting any investment.

RESOLVED that subject to the above, the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 29 April be approved as a correct record and signed by the Deputy Leader.

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

PART II

1250 THREE YEAR CAPITAL PLAN - 2004/2005 ONWARDS

Councillor E A Owens presented the report for Members to note the anticipated capital outturn position for 2003-2004 and the associated implications for the 2004-2005 General Funded element of the Capital Plan and to recommend to Council the strategy proposals as set out in paragraph 8 of the report. Councillor Owens reminded Members that potential new Capital schemes which had been identified but were currently outside the agreed capital plan could only be considered for inclusion after capital receipts had been generated.

Some of the slippage had been caused by a capacity issue in the Council in managing individual projects i.e. the process between the allocation of funding and the work being commenced. Councillor E C Edwards expressed his disappointment regarding the shortage of professional and technical staff in Denbighshire. The Corporate Director: Environment said the capacity issue was a problem throughout Wales and that there was less of a problem in Denbighshire than in many other Authorities. Councillor W R Webb said he was concerned regarding slippage and suggested the report should have been available at an earlier date.

The Corporate Director: Environment said it was hoped a report on property issues would be available for Cabinet on 25.05.2004.

With regard to the 2004/2005 Block Allocations, Councillor E A Owens said the suspension of half the Block Allocation had helped with funding for urgent works but had resulted in some difficulties with the small block allocations. The Block Allocation would be reinstated when sufficient capital receipts had been generated.

The Financial Controller outlined the current legislation with regard to DDA works and said an extensive programme of works was in place. Councillor Owens said it would be possible to roll over some of the DDA works to the next financial year with no loss of commitment. In response to a query from Councillor G M Kensler, Councillor Owens confirmed that each site would be considered separately. The Financial Controller also confirmed that each building would have a register of the presence of asbestos, if any. Councillor E C Edwards agreed it was difficult to set all the requirements in place but it was important to ensure the DDA was in place quickly. Councillor W R Webb agreed it was important to ensure the correct DDA requirements were in place. Councillor Owens agreed it was important not to just carry out superficial DDA works, but that all statutory requirements were met.

Councillor E A Owens outlined the Community Projects and said there was often a delay between the initial application and the applicants obtaining confirmation of match funding from other grant aiding bodies, as a result the funding would only be valid for a period of 18 months for future approvals.

Members were given an outline of the proposed reinstatement of the 2004-2005 Block Allocations by Councillor Owens. She said the Education block would not be reinstated at this time as funding was available from elsewhere and there would be no delay to the Education summer programme of works.

In response to a query from Councillor P A Dobb, the Principal Management Accountant confirmed that both residential homes funding and prudential borrowing for Personal Services had been approved.

Councillor E C Edwards expressed his disappointment that work had still not commenced on the Glasdir works for the Ruthin Relief Road.

In response to a query from Councillor W R Webb, the Corporate Director: Environment confirmed that the Corwen Flood Prevention works for 2004-2005 had been included and would receive 85% funding from the Welsh Assembly Government.

Councillor R W Hughes informed Members that the Meliden Multi Use Games Area had achieved 50% funding from the Sports Council. She reminded Members that Meliden was the third most deprived Ward in Denbighshire and asked Members to consider funding the Meliden MUGA at this time. After discussion, Members agreed to adjust the blocks and allocate £50k from the Highways Block until September 2004 to allow the Meliden MUGA to proceed.

In response to a query from Councillor W R Webb, the Principal Management Accountant confirmed that the Corwen Pavilion scheme was included on the Culture and Leisure B list.

The Head of ICT discussed the HR / Payroll system. He said the original capital bid had not included any hardware costs and outlined the current costs of the software and hardware where an additional £70k was required this year and a further £100k would be required next year. After discussion Members agreed to postpone any decision on additional funding for the system until September 2004.

At this juncture (11.10 a.m.) the meeting adjourned for 10 minutes to allow Members to participate in refreshments.

Councillor E C Edwards in referring to the Mwrog Street Flood Alleviation Scheme, expressed his concern regarding possible scheme costs but was assured by the Corporate Director: Environment that the Authority had made provision for reasonable claims. If required, the claims would be taken to the Lands Tribunal. The Corporate Director: Environment said if the claims were agreed, further reports would be brought to Cabinet. The Deputy Chief Executive / Corporate Director: Resources confirmed that funding was available for reasonable claims. Any settlements over and above that would impact on future years capital plan.

RESOLVED that Cabinet recommends to Council:

- [a] *the approval of the revised Capital Plan as set out at Appendices 3.1 to 3.5, incorporating the changes set out in section 2 of the report subject to a temporary reduction of the Highways Block Allocation of £50k for the funding of the Meliden Multi Use Games Area [to be reinstated to the Highways Block in September 2004 from Capital receipts]*
- [b] *that Capital Receipts generated in 2004/05 are applied to:*
 - i) *meet the projected funding shortfall of £0.220m*
 - ii) *finance the reinstatement of the remaining balance of the Block Allocations*
- [c] *that a review is undertaken of the necessary programme of works in respect of D.D.A. and other regulatory requirements*
- [ch] *that Resources Scrutiny Committee is asked to undertake an exercise to identify priorities for capital funding, taking into account current Block Allocations and the Council's agreed priorities*

- [d] that investigative work is undertaken to consider the feasibility of utilising the Prudential Borrowing regime to enable a scheme to be developed in respect of Rhyl College*
- [dd] that the potential to develop a Prudential Borrowing scheme in respect of Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn is considered*
- [e] that future approvals from the Community Projects Block Allocation will be subject to offers of funding being valid for a period of eighteen months after which time any projects which have not commenced will require fresh authorisation.*

The meeting concluded at 11.40 a.m.
