

CABINET

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Ruthin on Tuesday 25 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; 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, W R Webb, Lead Member for Property and Asset Management and E W Williams, Lead Member for Economic Wellbeing.

Observers: Councillors M LI Davies, S Drew, K N Hawkins, N Hugh Jones, D Jones, M M Jones, R E Jones, R J R Jones and A J Tobin.

ALSO PRESENT

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

1290 URGENT MATTERS

[i] Naming of PFI Building.

1291 MINUTES OF THE CABINET

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 10 May 2004 were submitted.

Typographical error - delete Councillor E W Williams' name from the list of Councillors present at the meeting.

Item 13 A CCTV - North Denbighshire Upgrade Project: Councillor E C Edwards asked the Chief Executive for an update and said the County were being given an opportunity to move the project forward with the use of the Police accommodation in Rhyl for the CCTV facility which would not only be of benefit to Rhyl, but also to Prestatyn residents. The Chief Executive confirmed that it had been impossible to agree a date for the delegation to meet with the Chief Constable before the 10 June 2004 elections but it was hoped the meeting would take place in late June or early July 2004.

RESOLVED that subject to the above, the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 10 May 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Deputy Leader.

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

Item 4 - 3 Year Capital Plan: To be added at the end of the third paragraph of page 4 - Councillor E A Owens said only half the Highways and Community Programmes could be reinstated straightaway. All would be reinstated as a priority once receipts came in.

RESOLVED that subject to the above, the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 29 April 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Deputy Leader.

1292 DENBIGHSHIRE LOCAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT [FORDHAM RESEARCH REPORT - FEB 2004]

Councillor P A Dobb presented the report seeking Cabinet:

- [i] endorsement of the broad content and findings of the Denbighshire Local Housing Needs Assessment (LHNA) which would be used as a material consideration to inform both Housing and Regeneration Strategy policy and programmes as well as Planning policy and planning applications
- [ii] endorsement of the need for further research to be carried out regarding the various options that the Council could pursue to deliver affordable housing within Denbighshire
- [iii] support for the case for additional funding for both substantial improvements to / regeneration of the existing private/general stock to meet the need that can be met “in-situ” as well as the need for additional affordable housing
- [iv] recommendation – pending subsequent consideration and approval- to Council to approve interim working arrangements to seek and deliver an agreed element of affordable housing in residential developments in planning applications and agree the need to prepare Supplementary Planning Guidance on Affordable Housing to enable detailed determination of planning applications. Depending on local circumstances this level should be set at a minimum of 30% affordable housing. Depending on resources available to RSL’s one option could be (i) 15% social RSL housing plus (ii) 15% low cost private sector housing – subsidised by the developer to bring it to an affordable price. No minimum site thresholds to be applied at present.

Councillor G M Kensler said she had some concerns regarding affordable housing needs. She wanted the Authority to ensure that new houses would not be built for speculators to purchase and stressed that land was a valuable asset and the needs of local people should be addressed. Councillor P A Dobb replied that the Authority could not stop houses in Denbighshire being purchased by those from outside the County. The Development Plan Manager reminded Members that a questionnaire had been sent to occupants of all new dwellings in the County, with one of the questions being where they had moved from and why. The results would be available shortly.

Councillor E A Owens, whilst not completely satisfied with the Fordham report, considered it to be based on an established and tested method and therefore was prepared to support Recommendations 1, 2 and 3 of the report. She had concerns regarding the need for social housing and her first concern was regarding the 30% affordable housing to be provided on new housing applications split 15% social rented and 15% low cost private sector market housing. She said the split would create a whole range of different problems. Many areas in Rhyl had an ageing population who were essentially a purchasing population who owned their own properties. She suggested some housing estates built in Rhyl could have been built more imaginatively with smaller integrated with the larger, detached housing. She felt the Authority had received poor customer service from Fordham and she was unhappy about leaving a transitional policy unless the 30% affordable housing provision could be altered. As a Ward Member with difficulties in locating monies put aside for play areas she suggested far more rigid and accountable ways were required for dealing with commuted sums.

However, she felt that the 4th Recommendation setting out the interim working arrangements did not offer sufficient protection to officers in negotiating affordable housing and left officers vulnerable.

The Head of Housing Services confirmed that the Fordham research could justify a figure of 40% or even higher for affordable housing. The 30% figure suggested for the interim is considered to be more achievable given the limited resources available in Social Housing Grant, with the split between owner occupation and rental being similarly affected.

With regard to paragraph 4.3 of Appendix 1, the Head of Housing Services confirmed that 30% provision of affordable housing was flexible and would be based on local circumstances. It was accepted that a method of ensuring the protection of officers was required and this could be listed as part of the new arrangements.

Councillor E C Edwards said there had been a lack of affordable housing in Ruthin for many years and he would welcome an affordable housing pilot scheme in Ruthin.

Councillor E W Williams said there was a need to house indigenous people first. He said there was a need for any ambiguity to be clarified to ensure the Authority would not be open to criticism. He suggested the new Council should be given an opportunity to discuss the Fordham report and for it to be linked to the review of the UDP. The Development Plan Manager confirmed that national guidelines allow for Planning to make a contribution to any decisions.

The Corporate Director: Environment said this would be a fundamental challenge to the Authority and there was significant demand for affordable housing in Denbighshire which would also affect the County's economy. A comprehensive and full policy would be required and an interim agreement would be required for current and new applications for housing development.

Councillor E A Owens suggested there be no flexibility on the level of affordable housing for developments in the interim period. However, the County Clerk said an absolute ban on flexibility could leave the Authority open to Challenge. The Development Plan Manager said the usual policy should be followed with on site provision being made and commuted sums accepted only in exceptional circumstances.

The Chief Executive suggested the minimum of 30% affordable housing be provided but a higher figure could be agreed in some instances dependent on the circumstances. He said there was no difficulty in omitting "Depending on local circumstances" in paragraph 4 of the Recommendation. The County Clerk agreed exceptional circumstances would be included as part of the planning application. The Head of Housing Services confirmed that the Section 106 agreement was the relevant date for applications and said a small number of exceptional cases had already been agreed which should not now be altered.

Councillor E A Owens said a firmer and clearer policy than that in the report was required which set a minimum of 30% affordable housing on any development which could be increased if appropriate. The affordable housing should be provided on site rather than off-site as the use of commuted sums left officers vulnerable.

Members agreed with Councillor E A Owens' proposal to amend the 4th recommendation, to delete the whole of the sentence "Depending on resources available ..." in paragraph 4 of the Recommendation.

Officers indicated that these were to be only temporary arrangements (i) to help deal with the current backlog of planning applications and (ii) pending further research and investigation and officers to report back with revised arrangements in September 2004.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- [a] *endorse the broad content and findings of the Denbighshire Local Housing Needs Assessment (LHNA) which will be used as a material consideration to inform both Housing and Regeneration Strategy policy and programmes as well as Planning policy and planning applications*
- [b] *endorse the need for further research to be carried out regarding the various options that the Council could pursue to deliver affordable housing within Denbighshire*
- [c] *support the case for additional funding for both substantial improvements to/regeneration of the existing private/general stock to meet the need that can be met "in-situ" as well as the need for additional affordable housing*
- [d] *recommend, pending subsequent consideration and approval, to Council to approve interim working arrangements to seek and deliver an agreed element of affordable housing in residential developments in planning applications and agree the need to prepare Supplementary Planning Guidance on Affordable Housing to enable detailed determination of planning applications. This level should be set at a minimum of 30% affordable housing.*

Councillor P A Dobb presented the report seeking Members' agreement to the Social Housing Grant Programme for 2004-2005.

In response to a query from Councillor G M Kensler, Councillor Dobb confirmed that various site options were being considered across the whole County.

Councillor G M Kensler abstained from voting.

RESOLVED that Members confirm the Social Housing Grant Programme for 2004-2005 as shown at Appendix 1 and agree that commuted sums from Section 106 Planning Agreements relating to Affordable Housing should be used to supplement Social Housing Grant and the allocation of such sums to appropriate schemes should be delegated to the Lead Members for Health and Wellbeing, Sustainable Development and Environment and for Finance.

1294 SOCIAL INCLUSION IN EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY

Councillor J A Smith presented the report for Members to adopt the Social Inclusion in Employment Strategy and Action Plan 2004-2005.

Councillor R W Hughes asked that Members representing the Wards listed in paragraph 5 of the Appendix be involved in the Strategy at all stages.

Councillor E A Owens asked for assurance that the Authority was not being expected to financially help when agencies or departments were not meeting their responsibilities.

The Corporate Director: Personal Services confirmed that discussions on enhancing the potential of Aberwheeler Nurseries were ongoing.

RESOLVED that Cabinet adopt the Social Inclusion in Employment Strategy and Action Plan 2004-2005.

1295 ANTI POVERTY PLAN

Councillor J A Smith presented the report seeking Cabinet approval of the Anti Poverty Plan [attached at Appendix 1 to the report] and its linked action plan [attached at Appendix 2 to the report].

Councillor R W Hughes reminded Members to also consider disadvantaged areas of Bodelwyddan, Meliden and Denbigh as well as the Community First area.

Members discussed item 6 on the Action Plan and it was agreed that the second sentence be amended to read "Ensure that unnecessary hardship, distress or financial difficulties are not created".

The Corporate Director: Personal Services said the £6m benefit / tax credit gains would generate significant income for individuals living in Denbighshire. She also confirmed that the CAB were involved in the Plan as part of the Community Legal Service Partnership.

Members agreed that information be made available electronically and an e-mail address be included on the Plan.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approves the Anti Poverty Plan [Appendix 1 to the report] and its linked action plan [attached at Appendix 2 to the report] subject to the above amendments.

1296 APPROVAL OF DRAFT IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2004-2005

Councillor E Williams presented the report for Cabinet to ensure the actions identified in the Improvement Plan would achieve corporate priorities for 2004-2005 and lead to improvements at both a corporate and service level and that Cabinet recommend the draft Improvement Plan 2004-2005 to Council for approval.

Councillor E A Owens reminded officers to make recommendations in line with Members' discussions. Members agreed with her suggestion that the Recommendation be amended to recommend the Draft Plan to Council as a basis for discussion.

The Corporate Director: Resources confirmed the current document was a discussion paper and all Members would be given the opportunity at Council to discuss the Draft Improvement Plan after the 10.06.2004. It was hoped the final Plan would then be approved by Cabinet before the Welsh Assembly Government July 2004 deadline.

Members agreed a seminar be convened for all Members to discuss the Draft Plan.

RESOLVED that Cabinet recommend the draft Improvement Plan 2004-2005 [attached to the report at Appendix 1] to Council for discussion.

1297 CORPORATE QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

Councillor E W Williams presented the report for Members to consider the Corporate Quarterly Performance report and to monitor closely the progress towards target of the statutory performance indicators with a view to considering any issue in greater depth as deemed necessary.

Councillor E A Owens said 57% of the Statutory Indicators had not met the target which could result in clawback. She suggested that should that happen the loss should be borne by the relevant Directorate and no losses should be met from Reserves. The Chief Executive reminded Members that PIG monies had not always been allocated to a Directorate who had not met the target. The Welsh Assembly Government had on occasion changed policies or the legal framework and it would be inappropriate to put the financial consequence of this onto a particular Directorate. As the Authority did not know whether the Welsh Assembly Government would claw back, a decision was not required.

Councillor P A Dobb said Personal Services were aware of the targets to be met and areas of concern would be discussed with the Welsh Assembly Government. However, she felt the targets were unequal through the Directorates.

Councillor G M Kensler referred to Indicator 9.2 and said public libraries were part of Councillor R W Hughes' portfolio. In response to a query regarding racial incidents, Councillor E W Williams explained the target was for Counties with a higher ethnic population than Denbighshire.

RESOLVED that Members note the progress on the Corporate Quarterly Performance report attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

At this juncture (11.30 a.m.) the meeting adjourned for 10 minutes to allow Members to participate in refreshments.

1298 RUTHIN CRAFT CENTRE FEASIBILITY STUDY

Councillor G M Kensler presented the report seeking Members' endorsement of the decision of the Asset Management Committee to support the Ruthin Craft Centre Feasibility Study and to proceed with the Development Study phase of the project. She also confirmed that Ruthin Town Council had agreed to pay £2000 towards the cost of the Development Study.

RESOLVED that Members endorse the decision of the Asset Management Committee to support the Ruthin Craft Centre Feasibility Study and to proceed with the Development Study phase of the project.

1299 YSGOL PLAS BRONDYFFRYN

Councillor G M Kensler declared an interest in the item as Chair of the Governors.

Councillor R W Hughes presented the report to update Members on the next phase of development at Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn and seeking endorsement of the need for further details, including costings, on each phase of the provision for presentation at a future Cabinet meeting.

Members agreed the report showing the Authority's commitment to the development of residential facilities for years to come. The Corporate Director: Lifelong Learning said the school and parents were pleased with the Authority's support for the proposed residential development.

RESOLVED that Members note the progress on the next phase of development at Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn and endorse the need for further details, including costings, on each phase of the provision for presentation at a future Cabinet meeting.

1300 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Councillor J A Smith presented the report.

RESOLVED that Cabinet note the contents of the Forward Work Programme.

1301 URGENT ITEMS

NAMING OF PFI BUILDING

Councillor E C Edwards referred to the Council decision of 18.05.2004 regarding the name of the PFI building and asked for confirmation from the County Clerk that this should have been an executive decision. The County Clerk confirmed that provision of premises for use for public meetings and assemblies under Section 132 Local Government Act 1972 was an executive function and it would therefore follow that the naming of the premises under the subsidiary powers in Section 111 Local Government Act 1972 was likewise an executive function. He confirmed that the Cabinet should be asked to make the decision as Council had in fact made a 'non decision'.

Councillor E C Edwards felt the name selected had very little in common with Ruthin or the County and that as the original part of the listed building had County Offices over the door was a name required? He asked that the matter be deferred and further consideration be given to the matter by the new Cabinet.

Councillor W R Webb said he and members of the PFI group at their meeting on 24.05.2004 supported the proposal to reconsider the name of Gwynfa. He said it was difficult for Denbighshire to identify with the name Gwynfa.

Councillor E W Williams said the Council had made the decision and care should be taken for Cabinet to try and overturn a Council decision. If there was a need to reconsider, this should happen in 6 months' time.

The County Clerk confirmed there was no need to wait 6 months before the matter could be considered by the executive as Council had made a 'non decision'.

The Chief Executive apologised for the confusion which had arisen and agreed with Councillor Edwards that the proper way forward was to delay implementing the decision and for the new Cabinet to decide whether or not the office should be named Gwynfa. If at that time the name was thought to be unsuitable, further consultation could take place.

Councillor M A German had no support for adhering to the Council decision.

RESOLVED to defer implementation the Council decision of 18.05.2004 to name the PFI Offices Gwynfa and for new Cabinet to consider the matter after 10.06.2004.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

There were no questions.

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

1302 STOCK TRANSFER COSTS / HRA BUDGETS

Councillor E A Owens presented the report to update Members on the estimate of costs to be incurred leading up to stock transfer and estimates of liabilities to be incurred by the Council after transfer, together with detailed proposals for the financing of those costs. Members were also asked to adopt the probable outturn for 2003-2004 HRA Budgets for revenue and capital and the revised 2004-2005 HRA Budgets for revenue and capital.

Councillor Owens thanked all the staff for their hard work on the stock transfer proposals and in particular the Head of Housing Services and the Senior Management Accountant.

Members were informed a further valuation had not yet been received. If the outcome of the ballot was not to proceed with stock transfer, the Assembly would provide up to 50% of pre-ballot costs. Crude estimates of post-transfer liabilities to be borne by the Council have been made, which include a one-off payment to the pension fund, liabilities linked to environmental warranties / risks to be borne by the Council e.g. insurance premiums, and early retirement / redundancy costs.

The Senior Management Accountant confirmed the Welsh Assembly Government had indicated they would fund the estimate of £2.7m for costs to be incurred leading up to stock transfer. The Council would need to make provision to meet the estimate for liabilities to be borne after stock transfer, but the Welsh Assembly Government would be approached for funding to help meet these.

Councillor R W Hughes voted against the proposal.

RESOLVED that:

- [a] *Members note the latest estimates of costs to be incurred leading up to stock transfer and the estimate of liabilities to be met by the Council after stock transfer, and the financing of these estimates*
- [b] *Members adopt the probable outturn for 2003/04 HRA Budgets for Revenue and Capital, and the revised estimates for 2004/05 HRA Budgets for Revenue and Capital*
- [c] *a report be brought to Cabinet outlining the response from WAG to the issues detailed at paragraph 4.9 of the report, and that the following reports also be brought to the same meeting :*
 - [i] *an update of the revenue and capital impacts of stock transfer on the Council*
 - [ii] *amendments to HRA estimates, both capital and revenue, if required.*

1303 VEHICLE EMISSIONS

Councillor M A German presented the report seeking Members approval to award the contract for fitting and maintaining particulate traps to all Authority Fleet vehicles over 3.5 tonnes gross vehicular weight (g.v.w.) to the two most economically advantageous tenders. The number of vehicles to be equipped by each contractor will be determined by the Fleet Manager on the basis of the operating criteria of each vehicle.

Members thanked the Fleet Operations Manager for moving the system forward.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agree

[a] tenders for the fitment and maintenance of vehicle particulate trap systems be accepted in respect of both Eminox Exhaust and Adastra

[b] fitment of particulate trap system, from either of the two tenderers, to be determined on a vehicle by vehicle basis by the Fleet Manager, taking into account vehicle type, fuel consumption and other relevant operating criteria.

1304 CAPITAL PLAN: COMMUNITY PROJECTS BLOCK ALLOCATION

Councillor E A Owens presented the report to update Members with progress regarding Community Project Block Allocations and to make recommendations in respect of new applications. She said half the budget was available for new schemes with the remaining half being dependent upon capital receipts being generated hopefully by September 2004. The current applications were discussed in detail and the following recommendations were agreed:

Appendix 3 / 2 Agree Approve

Appendix 3 / 3 Agree Reject - No contribution from applicant - applicants be requested to resubmit new application

Appendix 3 / 4 Agree Approve

Appendix 3 / 5 Agree Approve

Appendix 3 / 6 Agree Approve [Councillors R W Hughes, G M Kensler and E A Owens declared interests in this item]

The pending applications in Appendix 4 were discussed and it was agreed a reminder be sent to the applicants for the Dyserth Playing Fields and the Corwen War Memorial Park asking for progress to date on the schemes. With regard to the Ysgol Bryn Hedydd Rhyl application, it was agreed they be asked to submit a new application detailing current works required. It was also agreed the Ty Newydd Playing Fields Development application be removed from the list as the necessary community group had not been established.

RESOLVED that Cabinet notes the position of the projects for 2001/2002, 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 Community Projects Block Allocation and approves the recommendations in Appendices 3/2 to 3/6. It was also agreed that the applications in Appendix 4 be agreed as detailed above.

1305 RUTHIN - LON PARCWR CAR PARK

Councillor W R Webb presented the report seeking Members' consideration of the three preferred bidders and recommend the sale of the development site at Lon Parcwr, Ruthin, as shown black on the plan attached to the report, to one of the preferred bidders.

The Corporate Director: Environment informed Members that the highest bidder had confirmed they would not enter into a Section 106 agreement with the Authority in addition to the conditions already imposed. He confirmed that the revised bids received were all worthwhile and suggested a rigid timetable be imposed on the selected bidder.

Councillor P A Dobb expressed concern at the possibility of another food retail store being located in Ruthin and said she would prefer to see a mixed venture on the site.

Councillor W R Webb said such discussions had already taken place and he urged Members to approve disposal of the site to the highest bidder but if the terms proved unfavourable to the Authority officers be given authorisation to reject that bid and progress with the next most advantageous bid to the Council.

Councillor E C Edwards said he was pleased to see a non food retail bid being given consideration as the selected bidder.

Councillor E W Williams said most of the traditional shops in Ruthin had closed and he did not want a do-it-yourself chain to be brought in.

Councillor P A Dobb referred to the Authority's mission statement and said that whilst we maximise our resources we should also focus on our customers. She received no support for her suggestion the item be deferred.

RESOLVED that:

[a] *Members receive the revised best and final bids from the 3 preferred bidders and approve the disposal of the site to the preferred Bidder 1 for non-food retail outlet, subject to a limit being placed on the amount of any section 106 payment, offering the most advantageous terms to the County Council on terms to be agreed by the Head of Development Services in consultation with the County Clerk.*

[b] *Members further agree if Bidder 1 does not proceed, officers be authorised to reject the bid and progress with Bidder 3.*

[c] *the sale be subject to the Bidder complying with the conditions of sale:*

[i] *conditional exchange of contracts within 2 months of acceptance of bid*

[ii] *planning application to be submitted within two months of exchange*

[iii] *completion within 28 days of acceptable planning permission*

[iv] *10% deposit payment on exchange, only refundable if not in receipt of acceptable planning.*

1306 EIRIANFA

Councillor W R Webb presented the report seeking Members' reconsideration of the decision of 20.04.2004 to grant the Eirianfa Association a long lease of Eirianfa rather than the freehold in view of further information provided by the Association subsequent to Cabinet's decision.

The County Clerk informed Members that Denbigh Town Council had contributed £1000 towards the running costs of the Centre in 1979 and some financial assistance had also been given by outside organisations.

The Chief Executive reported that Denbigh Town Council supported a freehold disposal.

Members discussed the options available and agreed the Council was protecting the asset for the community whichever option was selected.

Councillor E A Owens referred to the Association's request to buy but said the Association could not dictate the value they would be willing to pay. She reminded Members the building was a valuable asset.

The Corporate Director: Resources reminded Members that if the property was leased to the Association, the Authority would still own it.

There was no support for various proposals to dispose at less than market value.

RESOLVED *that Cabinet reaffirm its decision of 20.04.2004 to grant the Eirianfa Association a long lease of Eirianfa rather than the freehold in view of further information provided by the Association subsequent to Cabinet's decision.*

1307 DISPOSAL OF MORFA HALL, RHYL

Councillor W R Webb presented the report seeking Members' confirmation of the Cabinet decision to dispose of Morfa Hall, Rhyl.

Councillors P A Dobb and G M Kensler voted against the proposal.

RESOLVED that in respect of Minute 476(a) of 25 September 2003, Cabinet confirms its approval of the recommendation of the Asset Management Committee at its meeting of 3 April 2003 that the area of land at Morfa Hall Rhyl as set out in the revised plan considered by Asset Management Committee on 2 May 2003 be sold to the Wales Council for Voluntary Action for the amount stipulated in the report then before Cabinet at paragraph 1.1 for a sum which it considers to be less than the best consideration that can reasonably be obtained. Cabinet considers that the purpose for which the interest in the land is to be disposed is likely to contribute to the achievement particularly in Rhyl of the improvement of economic, social and environmental wellbeing by the bringing of new jobs into the town which support the voluntary sector and by the refurbishment of a poor quality building.

1308 REVISED ARRANGEMENTS: PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

The Corporate Director: Environment presented the report to seek Members' support for alternative arrangements for the management of the County Council's property portfolio and its development programme and for approval for the cost implications of the proposals.

The Corporate Director: Environment said initial consultation with staff had resulted in support for the proposals. He hoped to have the structure in place with effect from 01.06.2004 with consultation with the Resources and Environment Scrutiny Committees taking place as soon as possible thereafter.

Councillor E C Edwards said he was pleased to receive the report and suggested the property function should always have been part of the Environment Directorate. He mentioned the new Asset Management Committee and said he hoped the Committee would be geographically balanced.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agree the proposals for restructuring property operations within Denbighshire and approve the cost implications of the proposals as set out in the report.

Councillor E W Williams thanked Cabinet Members and officers for their hard work over the past two years.

Councillor E C Edwards took the opportunity to pay tribute to Councillor W R Webb, who was not standing for Council again. Councillor Webb had been a Councillor for over 50 years and had been Chair of three different Authorities as well as the Deputy Leader of Denbighshire County Council and the Independent Group. Councillor Edwards said Councillor Webb would be missed by the Authority and the Group and highlighted some of his particular achievements on behalf of Denbighshire. He wished Councillor Webb very best wishes for his retirement.

Councillor J A Smith thanked Members for their support during his time as Deputy Leader of the Cabinet and also wished Councillor Webb well.

Councillor M A German also thanked Members and staff for their work.

The Chief Executive, on behalf of the officers, thanked Members for their kind comments and for their support.

The meeting concluded at 1.30 p.m.
