

## **CABINET**

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held in Conference Room 1, Council Offices, Ruthin on Tuesday 21 February 2006 at 11.00 a.m.

### **PRESENT**

Councillors S A Davies, Lead Member for Business & Communications; P A Dobb, Lead Member for Health & Wellbeing; E C Edwards, Lead Member for Communities; R W Hughes, Leader and Lead Member for Regeneration; P J Marfleet, Lead Member for Finance and Personnel; D Owens, Lead Member for Lifelong Learning; S Roberts, Lead Member for Promoting Denbighshire, J Thompson Hill, Lead Member for Property and Asset Management and E W Williams, Lead Member for Environment.

Observers: Councillors J R Bartley; R E Barton; M LI Davies; G C Evans; K N Hawkins; C L Hughes; N Hugh Jones; M M Jones, and G M Kensler.

### **ALSO PRESENT**

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

### **APOLOGIES**

Councillor M A German, Lead Member for Children and Young People

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Leader referred to the Cabinet Question Time which had taken place prior to the meeting and thanked the members of the public who had attended. She asked Cabinet Members if they had any particular issues they wished to report following the session:

Councillor S Roberts referred to concerns raised by the Civic Society over the disabled access to the Ruthin Library and the footbridge from the car park to Yr Hen Garchar. Questions were also asked over the opening of Nantclwyd House, and assurance was given that it would be opened as soon as possible.

Councillor E W Williams reported that he had been approached by a lady who had not realised that she was entitled to have her refuse collected, and had therefore, not had any refuse collected for over 15 years.

The Leader asked whether Members had any good news items to report.

Councillor E W Williams referred to the sharing of best practice at a seminar he had attended in Birmingham to look at Green Litter, and reported that the larger Councils were very interested in what we had achieved.

The Chief Executive advised Members that the authority had been nominated in two categories at the Excellence Wales awards which were being held in Cardiff at the end of the month. The Leader, Deputy Leader and officers would be attending, and he was hopeful for some positive news.

Councillor S Roberts advised Members that she had attended the Celebratory Conference on library standards in Wales at which Robat Arwyn Jones, the Principal Librarian was one of the speakers. He has now been asked to write an article for the next issue of the Cymal Journal on how Denbighshire has improved its library facilities over the last 3 years.

## **1 URGENT MATTERS**

There were no urgent matters.

## **2 MINUTES OF THE CABINET**

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 31 January 2006 were submitted.

Item 3 Revenue Budget 2005/06 - the Leader referred to the resolution and reported that the decision taken at the last meeting was to earmark £50k from the 2005/06 budget and not £25k as recorded in the minutes, and that the additional £25k received from the WLGA was an additional sum of money received which could be used as match funding.

Councillor P J Marfleet reported that he was under the impression that the total amount required for the visioning exercise was £50k, and that because of the £25k windfall received from the WLGA, only £25k would now be required to be earmarked from the 05/06 budget. He did not recall during the budget rounds, any indication that a likely £25k would be coming from the WLGA.

The Chief Executive explained that the announcement of £25k from the WLGA was a good news item and there was no intention to reduce the £50k already earmarked, as this money was still required to pay for the external professional advice which was required.

It was agreed to amend the resolution to read: *that Members note the figures in the appendices, and agree to earmark **£50k** from the 2005-2006 budget to be carried forward to 2006-2007 to be used for the Visioning exercise's marketing requirements.*

Item 5 Capital Prioritisation Process – it was reported that the scheme had been to Council, and it was agreed that there would be Member representation when CET were looking at the bids.

Item 9 Discount on Community Council By-Election Charges – Councillor M LI Davies said he would like the item referred back to Scrutiny for discussion, as he felt the outcome was very unfair on smaller communities. The Chief Executive explained that it was up to Councillor Davies to raise this with the

relevant Scrutiny, and that it was their decision to discuss this issue further.

The Leader asked Members if they had items they wished to raise at Cabinet, could they please do so beforehand, so that Officers were able to provide them with a response at the meeting.

**RESOLVED** that, subject to the above, the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 31 January 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

### **3 MONITORING THE AUTHORITY'S KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

Councillor P J Marfleet presented the report seeking Members' consideration of the Corporate Quarterly Performance Report against the Improvement Plan for 2005 / 2006 and urged Members to monitor closely the progress being made against corporate and service risks with reference to local performance indicators and progress towards target of statutory performance indicators, with a view to considering any issue in greater depth as deemed necessary.

Councillor Marfleet referred to the considerable amount of work that had been undertaken to try to achieve the performance indicators which were a key element of the Wales Programme for Improvement, and he advised Members that the WLGA, LGA and Idea were all working together to take stock of the current position.

He reported on a Seminar he had attended with other Lead Members across England and Wales where they had shared experiences of what each other were doing to achieve the targets. One clear message emerging from the Seminar was the common feeling that the burden was now too great, and the fear that there was a culture of compliance.

The Leader thanked Councillor Marfleet for his report and explained that the authority was being judged very much at the moment by its performance against the PI's. She asked Members to report individually on their relevant PI's.

**Health, Social Care and Well-being** - the Corporate Director: Social Services and Housing was pleased to report on the Indicators for Children's Services. She reported that there had been significant improvement and that a great deal of work had been undertaken to meet the targets. In SCC/C/004 the placement breakdown rate was not such good news, but the indicator concealed the fact that the Department reduced the number of looked after children, so the percentage did not reflect that the number of children who had 3 or more placements had also reduced. In SCC/C/005 (a) the target had been met for this quarter, and although the pathway plan in (b) had not met the target, against each quarter the performance was better than that in 2004/05. Children's Services and Housing were also delivering good news stories with the number of 16/17 year old care leavers in bed and breakfast accommodation.

Councillor P A Dobb referred to SCC/S/002 and said that since setting the

target, the definition had changed to exclude professional support services. The Welsh Assembly Government had advised that we were now not allowed to include these.

*Homelessness* HHA/S/001 – Councillor Dobb reported that this was an ongoing problem, and that the department knew that it would not be able to achieve the target. The Head of Housing Services had contacted WAG and although they would not amend the target number, they had said they would accept our lowest number.

The Corporate Director: Social Services and Housing reported that the number of homeless families with children in bed and breakfast accommodation was low in comparison with the other North Wales authorities.

*Food Hygiene* - Councillor E W Williams referred to PPN/S/OO1bii and explained that there had been staffing problems in Public Protection, but he was confident that these would be addressed. The Head of Planning and Public Protection reported that he was confident that the department was making steady progress and that a report on the Food Hygiene PI was being presented to the next meeting of the Environment Scrutiny.

*Municipal Waste* - Councillor Williams referred to WMT/S/001 PI and although the performance against iia and iib was not as good, he was confident that that target would be met.

The Corporate Director: Environment referred to the Waste Management PI and explained that the target set by WAG for 2005/06 was 15% and in order to achieve the target, iia and iib needed to be added together. This year was an interim year, and the target set for next year was 25%, and effective processes needed to be put in place. He advised Members that the authority had come a long way in a short period of time.

*Lifelong Learning* – Councillor D Owens reported on EDU/S/001 and his concerns that this figure could escalate in certain schools.

Councillor Owens referred to the number of mobile classrooms being used and reported that since September, 5 additional classrooms had been provided. All of the mobile classrooms from Rhyl High had now been removed, and it was anticipated that another 8 would be removed by the end of the current academic year.

When reporting on the local indicator of new/refurbished school buildings completed each quarter, Councillor Owens advised Members that there was a great deal of major work being undertaken in a number of schools.

*Community Safety* – the Corporate Director: Environment advised Members that he was not sure that the work the County Council was undertaking was having an impact on this figure. He expressed his concerns as to whether the actual target set was achievable and realistic. He reported figures in Denbighshire had reduced and virtually all crime indicators had fallen

dramatically. The number of crimes being reported had increased and some of the Town Centres had reported high levels of violent crime in pubs and clubs. This was being closely monitored, but there was a long way to go to achieve the 15% target.

The Chief Executive explained that the percentages are the required targets set by the Home Office, and that this should be noted against the indicators in the next report.

*Corporate Health* – Councillor P J Marfleet referred to CFH/C007, which had been consistently performing well, and congratulated staff for all their hard work. With reference to LI/RS/REV, Councillor Marfleet advised Members that there was a need to be wary of the LABGI money and take stock.

In reference to CHR/C.002, he advised Members that the new HRA system would be able to monitor the numbers of days lost due to sickness, and that if there was a trend on a department basis it needed to be identified.

*Job Evaluation K12* – Councillor Marfleet reported that there had been a slight slippage against this target, which was an issue, but not one he was over concerned with.

*Revenue Collection –BNF/S/002a and CO5* - Councillor Marfleet reported that that the Benefits Team were consistently working well, and congratulated staff for all of their hard work.

*Procurement* – the figure set for the local indicator was a very real target, which gave the authority an opportunity to save a great deal of money.

The Leader asked when would the data on sickness levels be available to look at. The Head of Personnel explained that there had been problems retrieving the information from the system, but work was being done to resolve this, and the information would be available by June, 2006.

*Capital Receipts* – Councillor J Thompson-Hill referred to CO8 and advised Members there was very little chance of achieving the target set of £3m. The Leader agreed that this particular target would need reconsidering.

Councillor N Hugh-Jones referred to CHR/C.002 monitoring of sickness levels, and asked whether this included school employees. The Head of Personnel explained that the indicator covered all employees of the County Council.

Councillor G M Kensler asked a number of questions in relation to the PI's, and responses were given as follows:

HHA/S/001 – did the numbers of homeless families with children in bed and breakfast accommodation include the transient population? Councillor Dobb explained that this was very varied, and that families could be local, or families moving into the area.

Mobile Classrooms – if we have to place mobile classrooms at a school because of fire, are these counted in the figures. The Head of Strategy and Resources explained that these are outside the normal reporting of figures.

Enforcement action taken for dog fouling/litter/fly tipping/abandoned cars – as the figure was higher than the target set, would it not be possible to raise the target which would provide us with more funding. Councillor E Williams explained that in terms of prosecuting, a number of people had been fined and this had been advertised.

Councillor S Roberts referred to LAA12, which was not reported on in this quarter. She advised Members that the target set for health walks was set at 1,600, and that the amount achieved to date was well above target at 3,942.

Councillor N Hugh-Jones referred to the figure for the health walks and as to how realistic was the target when set. He also referred to WAG's assessment of the figures, and as to how they were able to say that the target set was a realistic one. He was of the opinion that WAG should be told that the figure set was not realistic and a total waste of money and officer time.

Councillor Marfleet asked Members between now and the next meeting to work with their relevant Head of Service to discuss how realistic were the targets set, and to understand why some of the indicators were not performing well. He asked Members to come up with some proposals and look at ways of overcoming the poor performance.

**RESOLVED** that Members note the progress on the Corporate Quarterly Performance report against the Work Programme in the Improvement Plan 2005-2006.

#### **4 HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING STRATEGY: HEADLINE ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2005-2006 AND KEY ACTIONS FOR 2006-2007**

Councillor P A Dobb presented the report for Members to agree the key action points arising from implementation of the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Strategy one year after its formal adoption.

Councillor Dobb advised Members that there had been considerable progress made in shared care between the Council and health services, and that a development for 2006/07 would be a joint intermediate care service. Plans for the future also included the development of "champions" for each health promotion area, and well known Denbighshire people were being sought as Champions. Councillor Dobb asked Members if they knew of anyone, to let her know.

Councillor Dobb also referred to some of the challenging areas; the financial pressures facing the health service, and the inequity in pay and conditions between health and social services staff.

In response to a question from Councillor G M Kensler, the Corporate Director: Social Services and Housing Services reported that as far as the local authority was concerned, the additional money for social care services had been included in the budget settlement with a further recent announcement by the Minister.

Councillor C L Hughes referred to the Voluntary Sector Liaison Group and said a meeting had not been held within the last 18 months. The Corporate Director: Social Services and Housing reported that Officers were holding discussions with the Voluntary Services Council to reconvene the meetings.

***RESOLVED*** that Cabinet agree the key action points arising from implementation of the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Strategy one year after its formal adoption as set out in paragraph 2.2.8 of the report.

## **5 ACCOUNTABILITY ARRANGEMENTS - LOCAL HEALTH BOARD**

Councillor P A Dobb presented the report seeking Cabinet agreement to ensure systematic review of major current issues arising in the Local Health Board.

Councillor Dobb referred to key issues on which decisions had been made by the Board over the last year and would continue to feature prominently during 2006/07. She referred to the Primary Care Estates Strategy which would include five developments in Denbighshire; a new Primary Care Resource Centre in Rhyl, initially the redevelopment of Clarence House, Rhyl, redevelopment of Beech House and Bronffynnon practices in Denbigh, and the practice in Corwen.

Councillor Dobb reported that the Conwy and Denbighshire NHS Trust and Denbighshire LHB were also reviewing each community Hospital in Denbighshire, and that the reviews were considering the future service patterns and the condition and cost of maintaining existing buildings. A decision on the future of Prestatyn Community Hospital was expected to be made at a Board meeting in April.

With reference to the Secondary Care Review, Councillor Dobb advised Members that there were many risks as well as opportunities, and that if there were any change to the pattern of services, it was vital that resources came with the patient.

Councillor Dobb referred to the funding and financial position, and reported that the local authority was supporting the LHB in challenging the workings of the "Townsend formula". Two areas causing concern for us as a local authority are Mental Health and EMI. She reported that a Change Agent Team had been appointed and detailed work on a Service Change and Efficiency Plan (SCEP) was underway. She advised Members that the local authority representatives were in a difficult position on this issue, as they would support the health service returning to a financial balance, but with this there could be risks of service cuts.

Councillor S A Davies advised Members that he had been attending the Secondary Care Review Reference Group and that an issue emerging from this group was the limited collaboration between the Secondary Care Review and the Primary Care Review. Councillor Davies suggested that the WLGA be asked to become involved in this issue, because if costs were going to fall to local authorities, instead of the health services, assistance was required.

The Corporate Director: Social Services and Housing advised Members that what the health services were trying to achieve was to enable people to stay at home. However, what is being proposed is a “whole system” redesign and that creates high risk for the local authority and health services.

The Leader expressed her concern at the effect that caring for an ill relative at home would have on the carer, and that from Prestatyn Members’ point of view, it was important to retain some NHS beds in the town.

Councillor N Hugh-Jones referred to the Council opposing the Police Reform, and felt that if we and other Councils opposed to WAG, they may decide not to close community Hospitals.

Councillor E C Edwards said that this was a very important debate, and that he was a firm believer that all elderly people should be allowed to stay in their homes for as long as possible. He suggested looking at converting homes and asking the Asset Management Committee to look into this.

Councillor M LI Davies referred to the new GP contract and out of hours arrangements, and agreed that it did work in some ways, but expressed his concern that when he was a recent patient, he was told to take his prescription to a chemist in Colwyn Bay or Prestatyn, and that there was no chemist local to the hospital. He asked whether the LHB could consider using the pharmacy department at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd. He also referred to dental services, and how difficult it had become to find an NHS dentist locally, and that the nearest available dentist to him was in Prestatyn.

Councillor Dobb assured Councillor Davies that she would take back the comments on the out of hours service, and explained that the LHB was in negotiations to provide dental services in Rhyl and Denbigh, which should provide sufficient dentists for everyone in Denbighshire.

Councillor G M Kensler felt the comparison with Police Reform was a valid one as changes often proved to be more expensive.

Councillor C L Hughes agreed with the Leader’s comments on the effect caring for an ill relative at home can have on the carer, and asked that consideration be given to provide better conditions for children and families who care for a parent(s) with psychiatric problems.

Councillor E W Williams reported that costs are looked at from above, and who shouts loudest, gets the money. There is a great need to commit to partnership working, as there is much more we could do together and get ideas for funding.

The Leader reported that these were serious issues for the authority and suggested that as a Cabinet we needed to make some representations to the Health Minister of the issues and risks to the authority.

Councillor S A Davies suggested a letter be sent to the Health Minister pointing out the inadequate collaboration between the Secondary Care Review and the Primary Care Review, and our concerns that adequate funding was not in place. The Leader asked that guidance be taken from Councillor P A Dobb as to the issues to be raised in the letter, and emailed to Cabinet Members for comments.

Councillor E W Williams suggested contacting the WLGA to see if there were any concurring views from other local authorities in Wales.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet agree that, following discussion at Scrutiny Committee, they will specifically review in 2006/07 the risks and opportunities relating to

- [1] asset management decisions across the health and local authority sectors
- [2] the implications for the local authority of service delivery changes arising from the secondary care, community hospitals and primary care reviews
- [3] the impact for the local authority of the health economy financial position and "Service Change and Efficiency Plan" (SCEP)
- [4] a letter to be sent to the WAG Minister for Health and Social Services, with a copy to the WLGA, pointing out there is a perception of inadequate collaboration between the Secondary Care Review and the Primary Care Review and also expressing the Authority's concerns that adequate resources are not in place.

## **6 RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT CONSULTATION ON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME [AMENDMENT] [NO 3] REGULATIONS 2005**

The Deputy Chief Executive / Corporate Director: Resources presented the report seeking agreement to a response on the current consultation on changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme [LGPS]. He referred to the draft response attached at Appendix 2 which had been discussed in detail by the Resources Scrutiny Committee, and who had been generally in agreement with the draft except for a few amendments.

Councillor P M Marfleet highlighted the importance of parity with other public sector workers, and that this was something that should have been grasped by Central Government.

Councillor P A Dobb referred to Social Services and how important it was that parity was kept between Social Services, the Voluntary Services and other agencies. As the authority represented an area where there is a large number of elderly people, Councillor Dobb felt that people of today realised that retirement had to be later in life, and had to be realistic, and therefore, she could not support keeping the 85 year rule.

The Chief Executive referred to the Fire Service Pension Scheme in England, and as to how all serving fire fighters who had 25 years service could retire at 50. If existing fire fighters are allowed to retire at 50, how can the Government make a difference with Local Government employees.

Councillor P A Dobb felt that a role of a fire fighter was a different role which was more physical and had more stress levels, and she did not think that any local government role was as physical.

Andy Rutherford, the Branch Secretary of UNISON referred to their response to the draft regulations and as to how they had taken onboard that the 85 year rule had to change. He referred to Fire fighters, Police Officers and Teachers all being protected, but advised Members that the fire service staff, police staff and support assistants were not protected. He agreed that parity was important and that it should not be a split workforce, everyone should be protected. Councillor P J Marfleet agreed with Mr. Rutherford's views and highlighted the need for Central Government to deal with this issue for the future for new starters, because in 10-15 years time the situation will be much more drastic.

Councillor R E Barton referred to the financial implications and to the pension holiday, and as to how the cost of it should be pursued with the WLGA/LGA. He agreed that there needed be consistency for all employees on the scheme, and that the authority needed to pursue Central Government.

Councillor P J Marfleet referred to the difference in pension contribution between teachers and other local government employees, and as to how this was manifested in the final salary.

The Chief Executive explained that the Teachers' Scheme was worked out on a national basis and that each authority was told what they needed to contribute. The Local Government fund was backed by real assets which can grow in value, whereas the Teachers' fund was not, so that is why we are told how much to contribute.

The Deputy Chief Executive / Corporate Director: Resources explained that the Government proposals were that the 85 year rule would be removed this year with protection for existing staff until 2013.

Councillor P A Dobb agreed that there should be consistency between employees, but felt that Central Government was trying to bring a scheme that was realistic, and therefore agreed that the 85 year rule should be removed.

Upon being put to the vote and on the casting vote of the Leader, it was

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet agree the response as outlined in Appendix 2 attached to the report, subject to the amendments in paragraph 2.5 of the report.

## **7 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2005-2006**

Councillor P A Dobb presented the report for Members to note the latest financial forecast position of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2005-2006, which showed a potential net underspend of £233k at the year end. The main reasons for the change are increased staffing and one-off redundancy costs.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet note the latest financial forecast position of the Housing Revenue Account for 2005-2006.

## **8 REVENUE BUDGET 2005-2006**

Councillor P J Marfleet presented the report asking Members to note the budget performance figures for the current financial year and seeking agreement to earmark £30k to fund a Council presence at the Urdd Eisteddfod in 2006-2007.

Councillor Marfleet advised Members that the situation had improved slightly showing a potential underspend of £416k, which did not include the schools' delegated budget which was reporting a pressure of £306k. The improvement in underspend had been reached due to ICT forecasting a £50k underspend and the forecast for the Capital Financing Charges showing a further underspend of £50k. Councillor Marfleet commended Finance Officers for taking advantage of the dip in interest rates for long term borrowing and refinancing £32m worth of debt to secure £230k savings per year against actual target which would assist the authority within the current financial year.

He stated that overall, the position was difficult and as referred to at the last meeting asked Directorates/Department to provide details on how they considered any carry forwards/underspends should be allocated.

Councillor E W Williams referred to the process and as to how there should be an acknowledgement for those Directorates that underspend, because if they achieve savings, the work would go unrewarded.

The Leader agreed, and felt it was important to tackle those areas which were demand led. She also referred to 4.6 of the report which indicated that £25k of the underspend be earmarked for the Visioning exercise. Following the discussion of this amount under the Minutes item, she asked for this amount to be amended to £50k.

Councillor S Roberts referred to the recommendation to earmark £30k for a Council presence at the Urdd Eisteddfod, and advised Members that this

money would assist with promotional material which could also be used at the Llangollen Royal International Musical Eisteddfod and the Denbighshire and Flintshire Agricultural Show.

**RESOLVED** that Members note the figures in the appendices, and agree to earmark £30k to fund a Council presence at the Urdd Eisteddfod in 2006/2007.

## **9 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

Councillor S A Davies presented the Cabinet Forward Work Programme.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet note the Cabinet Forward Work Programme.

## **10 URGENT ITEMS**

There were no Part I Urgent Items.

## **EISTEDDFOD YR URDD 2006**

Members received a presentation from Sian Eirian, Director of the Eisteddfod. The bilingual presentation would be depatched to all Members.

Sian Eirian referred to the special partnership between the Urdd and the Authority and thanked all Members, the Chief Executive, Corporate Directors and all staff for their support. She also introduced Ian Carter, the Eisteddfod Field & Business Manager to the meeting.

She referred to the audience that the Eisteddfod attracts and to the opportunities for local businesses during Eisteddfod week, referring to statistics that 70% of day visitors travel from over 100 miles away, and not only do they visit the Eisteddfod, they visit other areas in its proximity, and 78% spend money in local businesses. She referred to how extensively the Eisteddfod was broadcast, and that programmes will be broadcast in English and Welsh during Eisteddfod Week.

Ian Carter showed Members two aerial photographs of the Conwy Eisteddfod to give an indication of the area that was required, together with two plans of the Ruthin field. He explained that coaches would be entering via the school entrance and that the back road to the Leisure Centre would be used for emergency services only. 250 spaces had been allocated for caravans and 6,000 for cars. He also advised Members that because of the merging of quangos to the Welsh Assembly Government, the WDA would not have a presence on the field, and therefore there would be a shortfall in sponsorship.

The Chief Executive expressed his disappointment at the news that the WDA would not have a presence on the field, and to the fact that the Urdd would now receive less sponsorship for the event. He referred to the plans and asked whether there would be a safe road for pedestrians to walk to the field.

Mr. Carter explained that he was hoping that everyone would enter the Eisteddfod field through the Welcome Tent. He referred to the plans and highlighted footpaths which pedestrians could use when walking from the caravan site into Ruthin.

Councillor G M Kensler also expressed her disappointment that the WDA would not be present and felt strongly that the authority should write to the First Minister and the Minister for Economic Development and Transport to express its disappointment.

Councillor G C Evans asked about the parking of coaches in the town, and as Tesco had now purchased the Lon Parcwr site, where were they intending to park the coaches. Mr. Carter explained that there were a couple of alternative options being looked at in Ruthin. He assured Members that coach drivers were very experienced, and very good at finding places to park. He asked that if anyone had any suggestions for the possible parking for 80 coaches to let him know.

Councillor E C Edwards referred to news that the Trunk Roads Agency were going to be investing some money into the pavements on Rhos Street.

Councillor D Owens referred to the non-presence of the WDA and to the financial impact, and asked whether the Welsh Assembly Government would now be taking up a larger tent. Mr. Carter explained that they were hoping that WAG would take up a larger tent, but this would not make up the shortfall. The Welsh Language Board had confirmed its attendance, and discussions were taking place with the Wales Tourist Board, as it was uncertain whether they would be.

Sian Eirian thanked Members for their trust, support and enthusiasm, and said that the Eisteddfod was a golden opportunity for Denbighshire to promote its assets.

The Leader thanked Sian Eirian and Ian Carter for their presentation and agreed that a letter be sent to WAG.

***RESOLVED*** that due to the shortfall of income from the Welsh Assembly Government as a result of the merging of quangos and discontinuance of WDA support, Cabinet agreed to write to WAG asking for their support for this year's Urdd Eisteddfod.

The meeting concluded at 1.10 p.m. for lunch and reconvened at 1.45 p.m.

## **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that 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 and 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972.

## **PART II**

### **11 EISTEDDFOD YR URDD 2006**

Councillor E W Williams declared an interest in this item.

Councillor S Roberts presented the report seeking Members' agreement to the County Council's final tranche of grant support for the Urdd Eisteddfod being held in Ruthin between 29 May - 3 June 2006 and to agree the Council's presence at the event and associated resource requirements.

Cabinet discussed the in kind provision provided by the authority and the importance that any damage caused was rectified.

Councillor Roberts referred to the leaflet for the Eisteddfod which had arrived, but advised Members that although they had used Denbighshire in its title, it did not include our logo, because the leaflet had been produced by the Wales Tourist Board.

The Cultural Tourism and Marketing Manager explained that the leaflet was the first of a series of leaflets produced, and was not the main one. This leaflet had been produced by the Wales Tourist Board to promote the area for people visiting during Eisteddfod Week. She advised Members that the main leaflet produced by the Urdd would have Denbighshire recognition on it.

Councillor E W Williams said that the fact that Denbighshire was in the title was the important part and it did not matter that the logo was omitted.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet

- [a] *approve payment of the remaining £150k grant to the Urdd in April 2006, subject to formally agreeing with the Urdd the buy back of those services required that cannot be provided in kind*
- [b] *recommend allocation of an additional sum of £30k from end of year surplus (2005/2006) to finance the agreed County Council presence and promotional activity in respect of the event*
- [c] *agree that DCC's presence and promotion at the event is as outlined in paragraph 2.2*
- [d] *recommend that the Cabinet promotes a motion at the next meeting of the WLGA's Council to call for revised funding arrangements for annual national events, where the burden of funding falls in turn on different parts of Wales, including the Urdd Eisteddfod, and that they should replicate the arrangements now agreed for the National Eisteddfod.*

**12 EXTRA CARE HOUSING, PRESTATYN**

Councilor P A Dobb presented the report seeking a decision on how to proceed with the development of Extra Care in Prestatyn.

A matrix was circulated to Members which looked at the risks, service delivery, and costs for the three options in Prestatyn including the Ffrith Beach. Members were advised that the Llys Nant option was the recommended option with detailed feasibility work now required.

Councillor Dobb said that she has concerns regarding the saleability of units at Llys Nant, given the nature of the site and the need to phase work around existing residents and functions. However, she did support the recommendations in the report. She advised Members that meetings with staff and family members were underway which were positive.

Cabinet discussed at length the service delivery, the overall costs, planning issues, public perception, impact on staff and existing service users and their families.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet confirm the selection of the Llys Nant site for development of an extra care scheme and agree detailed feasibility work, including detailed financial appraisal, is now undertaken to enable the project to be progressed. It was further agreed that subject to the outcome of the consultation process on Prestatyn Community Hospital, discussions are held with health service colleagues about the opportunities for them to be involved in the project.

(Councillor E W Williams requested that his vote against the proposal be recorded).

### 13 CAPITAL PLAN

Councillor P J Marfleet presented the report for Members to note the latest projected position on the 2005/06 element of the Capital Plan and to agree to the amended funding requirements as set out in paragraphs 2.5 to 2.7 of the report.

He referred Members to the Capital Prioritisation Scheme which had been approved by Council and to the fact that as this had only just started. In order to ensure the timescale did not delay the start of some of the capital projects, he explained that he had drafted a letter to all Members seeking their support to delegate this responsibility to Cabinet to agree £3m out of the £4m.

He assured Members that at the meeting when Cabinet debates the projects, there will be an opportunity for all Members to make representations and ask questions.

**RESOLVED** that Members note the position of the 2005-2006 element of the Council's agreed 3 year Capital Plan and agree to the amended funding requirements as set out in paragraphs 2.5 to 2.7 of the report.

The meeting concluded at 3.15 p.m.