

## **CABINET**

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held in ECTARC, Llangollen at 11.00 a.m. on Tuesday 31 October 2006.

### **PRESENT**

Councillors S A Davies, Lead Member for Business, Communications and Personnel; P A Dobb, Lead Member for Health & Wellbeing; E C Edwards; Lead Member for Communities; R W Hughes, Leader and Lead Member for Regeneration; M A German, Lead Member for Children and Young People; D Owens, Lead Member for Lifelong Learning; G O Rowlands, Lead Member for Finance; and Councillor E W Williams, Lead Member for Environment.

Observers: Councillors R E Barton, G C Evans, C L Hughes and T R Hughes.

### **ALSO PRESENT**

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

### **APOLOGIES**

Councillors S Roberts, Lead Member for Promoting Denbighshire and J Thompson Hill, Lead Member for Property and Asset Management.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Deputy Chief Executive / Corporate Director: Resources reported that the Revenues team had been nominated for 2 awards at the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation Conference (IRRV) and were awarded the VOCA Direct Debit Quality Award for quality of service and were highly commended in the IRRV Excellence in Debt Management Award, the first time this had been awarded in the category.

Councillor C L Hughes (Observer) informed the meeting that work had commenced on the Integrated Learning Services unit at Gwaenynog, Denbigh and he congratulated all associated with the project for their work and co-operation.

#### **548 URGENT MATTERS**

There were no Urgent Matters.

#### **549 MINUTES OF THE CABINET**

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 26 September 2006 were submitted.

Item 5 101 Cymru –

Amendment to the end of the first paragraph of page 4 to read “Deputy Chief Executive / Corporate Director: Resources”.

The Deputy Chief Executive / Corporate Director: Resources confirmed that all submissions in the current round had been rejected by the Home Office. The Home Office had, however, allocated some funding towards this but a claim for the Head of ICT 's time and work would also be made.

Item 9 Revenue Budget 2006-2007 – Councillor R E Barton (Observer) asked that his question on why school governors were not being consulted on school budgets be added to the minutes.

**RESOLVED** that, subject to the above, the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 26 September 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

**550 SUPPORTING PEOPLE OPERATIONAL PLAN 2007-2008**

Councillor P A Dobb presented the report seeking Members' agreement to the Supporting People Operational Plan for 2007/2008.

Councillor Dobb thanked the Supporting People Team Manager for her hard work on the project and said this had led to the officer being asked to carry out further work on other projects for the Welsh Assembly Government.

***RESOLVED** that Members agree the Supporting People Operational Plan for 2007/2008 and support the projects identified to proceed to meet the needs of vulnerable people.*

**551 EXTENDING CONTRACT EXPIRY DATE BY 12 MONTHS, TO 31.09.2007, FOR THE GIFT PARTNERSHIP PROJECT**

Councillor P A Dobb presented the report for Members to agree to an extension of the GIFT Partnership Project contract expiry date by 12 months, to 30/09/07 or until a decision is made in relation to the future configuration of the GIFT housing support service, whichever is sooner.

***RESOLVED** that Members agree to the extension of the GIFT Partnership Project contract expiry date by 12 months to 30.09.2007 or until a decision is made in relation to the future configuration of the GIFT housing support service, whichever is sooner.*

**552 PARTNERSHIP PLANNING STRUCTURES RELATING TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

Councillor M A German presented the report seeking Members' agreement for partnership planning structures for children and young people arising from legislation and recent guidance.

Councillor Dobb supported the report and said the Welsh Assembly Government had a 10 year strategy for all social services, to enable fulfilled lives for all family members. It was important to renew commitment to families. Councillor G O Rowlands felt that many children were not receiving as much support as required as funding had not been in place.

***RESOLVED** that Cabinet endorse the proposals (P1 – P7) set out in paragraph 2.13 of the report.*

**553 WEST CHESHIRE / NORTH EAST WALES SUB-REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY**

Councillor R W Hughes presented the report seeking Members' agreement to the West Cheshire/North East Wales Sub-Regional Spatial Strategy 2006– 2021.

She thanked the Head of Development Services and the Principal Regeneration Manager for their work on the Strategy to ensure that Denbighshire was represented and could play a robust part, along with the Cheshire / Wirral area. The Principal Regeneration Manager would provide a bullet-style briefing note on the Strategy for Members. The next stage was to direct resources and implement the strategy.

***RESOLVED** that Members endorse the West Cheshire/North East Wales sub-regional spatial strategy 2006 – 2021 and the Principal Regeneration Manager would provide a bullet-style briefing note on the Strategy for Members.*

**554 RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR WALES 2007 - 2013**

Councillor R W Hughes presented the report seeking Members' approval of the arrangements for the delivery in Denbighshire of the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013.

The committee would have 8 members, with both the voluntary and community sector represented. She suggested the Chair of Cadwyn Clwyd and the Chair of Denbighshire's Rural Plan Task Group be members of the committee.

In response to a query from Members regarding the areas included in the Plan, the Principal Regeneration Manager said Dyserth and Meliden were not classified as rural by the Assembly for the programme and representations by the Authority had led to the current areas being included. He confirmed that, although Cadwyn Clwyd included Flintshire and that Flintshire had their own allocated rural wards, the Denbighshire funding could not be spent in Flintshire.

**RESOLVED** that Members approve:-

- (a) *the establishment of a Partnership Board for rural Denbighshire with the public sector to be represented by members of the County Council to be nominated by the Leader;*
- (b) *the delivery of all Axis 4 activities and Axis 3 activities as appropriate by the existing LEADER Plus Local Action Group serving the County (Cadwyn Clwyd Cyfyngedig);*
- (c) *the administration of the funding for Axes 3 and 4 by the County Council if necessary, and*
- (ch) *the delegation of the approval of any urgent variation required to these arrangements to the Leader following consultation with the chair of the Rural Action Plan Task Group.*

#### **555 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2006-2007**

Councillor P A Dobb presented the report for Members to note the latest financial forecast position of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) (revenue and capital) for the current financial year. The outturn projection at the end of September showed a net surplus at the year end of £670k was shown against a budgeted surplus of £333k.

Following the review of Right To Buy sales completed in July, the forecast sales for the year have been revised downward from 48 to 44, with 10 completed sales at the end of September 2006. It was hoped that 25-30 sales would be completed by the year end. The Housing Stock Business Plan would be reviewed once the Welsh Assembly Government determinations were received.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet note the latest financial forecast position [revenue and capital] of the Housing Revenue Account for the current financial year.

#### **556 REVENUE BUDGET 2006-2007**

Councillor G O Rowlands presented the report for Members to note the latest revenue budget performance figures for the 2006/2007 financial year as detailed in the appendices attached to the report.

A potential underspend of £784k was forecast, excluding the schools' delegated budgets. Social Services were showing an increased underspend mainly due to the underspend brought forward from the previous year coupled with savings against the Supporting People grant schemes. Significant pressures could be expected later in the year for the back-dated element of the equal pay claims.

In response to a query from Councillor S A Davies regarding the projected Corporate Service overspend, the Financial Controller said a tendering of translation service provision would be undertaken which could lead to a reduced pressure in the current year and it was important that a cost effective service was provided. The Financial Controller also agreed to provide a split figure for the proposed efficiency saving for the Children's Village and the Riverside Park franchise.

Councillor R E Barton (Observer) asked why school governors were not more involved in school budgets. Councillor G O Rowlands said the Lifelong Learning Finance team was in touch with all schools and it was up to Headteachers to discuss school budgets with their school governors. The Chief Executive agreed and said school governors could ask Headteachers for any information they required.

The Corporate Director: Environment confirmed there was a small balance in the winter maintenance fund but this and the budget could be exhausted if a hard winter was experienced.

In response to a query from Councillor P A Dobb, Councillor D Owens said Headteachers could go direct to the Lifelong Learning department for any information and guidance regarding school budgets. A training day was being held for all school governors on 11.11.2006 and Members were urged to attend.

**RESOLVED** that Members note the budget performance figures for the current financial year as detailed in the appendix to the report.

#### **557 ROUTINE REPORTING ON PERSONNEL**

Councillor S A Davies presented the report on staff headcount and asked Members to consider the proposals for the future reporting of personnel staff indicators.

Councillor Davies said the information presented would allow the Authority to spot any trends in employment. A monthly progress report showing data cleansing issues was being prepared as was a report on Single Status. Councillor E C Edwards asked whether the use of consultants by the Authority would be included, and Councillor Davies confirmed that any agency or part time employees figures would be shown.

Councillor E W Williams suggested that explanation notes were required in the report as the transfer of staff between Directorates was not included and asked whether it was possible to show the percentages of office and manual workers employed. The Chief Executive said staff/department movement between Directorates could be included but there was a limit on information on percentages of office or manual workers employed. Councillor Williams also asked whether supply teacher and contractor figures could be included.

The Deputy Chief Executive / Corporate Director: Resources, referring to paragraph 2.5 of the report, said future reports would be produced on a monthly basis and would include more detailed explanations of the figures. Figures for agency employees were being developed separately.

Councillor R W Hughes said the figures would show service provision and spending, which could be measured alongside the Council's priorities.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet note the information in the report and the proposed Action Plan.

#### **558 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

Councillor S A Davies presented the Cabinet Forward Work Programme.

Councillor R E Barton (Observer) referred to a motion to Council on 19.09.2006 regarding the possible reinstatement of the provision of 2 bin bags to householders who were not part of the recycling scheme and he asked when the item would be discussed. Councillor T R Hughes agreed with Councillor Barton and suggested the item should be included on the Cabinet Forward Programme in the near future. The Corporate Director: Environment said the item would need to be submitted as part of the budget round. Both the Corporate Director: Environment and

Councillor E W Williams said fortnightly collection of waste had ceased approximately 8 years earlier which had led to 2 bin bags being provided.

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

**559 URGENT ITEMS:**

There were no Urgent Items.

**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 paragraph 20 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**PART II**

**560 CONTRACT AWARD FOR THE SUPPLY OF VEHICLE SPARES, CONSUMABLES AND LUBRICANTS**

Councillor E W Williams presented the report seeking Members' agreement to a contract for the supply of vehicle spares, consumables and lubricants. One contract would mean one invoice being issued per week and parts being purchased only when required.

The Corporate Director: Environment said it had been agreed one company had asked to use the depot for MOT and safety checks on their vehicles.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet agree to enter into a contract for the supply of vehicle spares, consumables and lubricants with Imperial Commercials Limited, on the basis of the information contained in the report.

**561 CAPITAL PLAN 2006-2007**

Councillor G O Rowlands presented the report for Members to note the latest position on the 2006-2007 element of the Capital Plan. Members were asked to recommend to Council the inclusion of the Active Lifestyles and Ysgol Dewi Sant projects in the Capital Plan (Paragraph 2.11 of the report).

The Deputy Chief Executive / Corporate Director: Resources informed Members that a meeting had been arranged with Dells to discuss and resolve outstanding issues regarding the Community Learning Centres and confirmed that WEFO funding was currently still in place for the projects.

The Head of Tourism, Heritage and Culture said a decision was still awaited on funding from the Welsh Assembly Government regarding the ex tourist board bid for funding for the Ruthin Craft Centre.

With regard to the landslip at Corwen, the Head of Development Services confirmed that the house purchase had been completed and works were progressing.

Detailed discussion took place on School Strategic Masterplans and it was agreed these be drawn up for all secondary schools, if not already available, to ensure educational development met future needs.

Members also welcomed the business and asset review for Clwyd Leisure which would help plan the future direction of the company and the assets owned by the Authority, with an update report on progress being made to the next Cabinet meeting.

The proposed mobile at Ysgol Dewi Sant would be considered as part of the capital project process.

Councillor S A Davies expressed his disappointment that the Riverside Park refurbishment project would not be included in the Capital Plan at the current time. Following discussion, it was agreed that officers try and identify another funding stream for the project.

Councillor E C Edwards reminded Members that the rules for inclusion of projects in the Capital Plan were the same for all Members, across the whole County and that capital expenditure should be allocated across the County. He expressed his disappointment that the Capital Plan Task Group had not met recently and suggested the Group should meet as a matter of urgency and make recommendations on the Plan for Cabinet consideration.

In response to a question from Councillor E C Edwards who had expressed disappointment that all claims had not been finalised, the Corporate Director: Environment provided information on the flood scheme compensation payments and said some claims had been paid in full, some were part paid and a small number of claimants had not been paid at all as negotiations were ongoing.

***RESOLVED*** that Members note the latest position on the 2006-2007 element of the Capital Plan and recommend to Council, the inclusion of the Active Lifestyles and Ysgol Dewi Sant projects in the Capital Plan (Paragraph 2.11 of the report).

The meeting concluded at 1.00 p.m.

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