

## **CABINET**

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held at 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday 26 June 2007 in the Sports Pavilion, War Memorial Park, Green Lane, Corwen.

### **PRESENT**

Councillors S A Davies, Lead Member for Policy, Communications and Improvement; P A Dobb, Lead Member for Health, Social Care & Wellbeing; E C Edwards, Lead Member for Customer Care and Citizen Engagement; M A German, Lead Member for Children, Young People and Families, R W Hughes, Leader and Lead Member for Economic Prosperity & European Programmes; D Owens, Lead Member for Schools and Lifelong Learning; G O Rowlands, Lead Member for Finance and Procurement; S Roberts, Lead Member for Promoting Denbighshire, J Thompson Hill, Lead Member for Property and Sustainable Development and E W Williams, Lead Member for Environment.

Observers: Councillors J R Bartley, R E Barton, M LI Davies, G C Evans, H H Evans, K N Hawkins; T R Hughes; M M Jones, N P Roberts and C H Williams.

### **ALSO PRESENT**

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

### **APOLOGIES**

Deputy Chief Executive / Corporate Director: Resources.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

Councillor R W Hughes welcomed Councillor Tudor, Chair of Corwen Community Council and residents of the area to the Cabinet meeting and thanked them for attending the earlier 1:1 with Cabinet Members and senior officers. Councillor Tudor thanked Members for attending, the opportunity afforded for the public to discuss issues with the Members and said Corwen was pleased to host its second Cabinet meeting.

Councillor E C Edwards and Councillor E W Williams thanked the Corporate Director: Environment and all his team for their hard work on the flash floods the previous day.

Councillor S Roberts was pleased to announce that Denbighshire had been awarded a £1.5m grant by the Heritage Lottery fund for the implementation stage of the Heather and Hillforts Project. The County Archaeologist, the Heather and Hillforts Project Officer and the Countryside Warden were congratulated on their success and hard work by Members.

Councillor P A Dobb reminded Members and staff that assessors would be visiting and assessing the Authority on 18/19 July for the Corporate Health Standard.

Councillor M M Jones reported that Nantclwyd House, Ruthin had been opened to the public on 23.06.2007.

Councillor E W Williams reported the County had failed in its appeal to the Welsh Assembly Government with regard to the Wern Ddu, Gwyddelwern wind farm. The Chief Executive said the Authority would be considering a High Court challenge to the decision.

### **133 URGENT MATTERS**

There were no Urgent Matters.

## 134 MINUTES OF THE CABINET

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 22 May 2007 were submitted.

Item 6 Denbighshire's Recycling Park Strategy – Page 8 second paragraph, last sentence: amend to read “.... could dispose of a large variety of items”.

***RESOLVED** that, subject to the above, the minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.*

## 135 ECONOMIC GROWTH STRATEGY FOR DENBIGHSHIRE

Councillor R W Hughes presented the report seeking Members' agreement of the Economic Growth Strategy for Denbighshire.

Councillor Hughes said extensive consultation with key stakeholders had been carried out and the Strategy was critical when drawing on European funding. Denbighshire was the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest County which had successfully drawn on Objective 1 Funding, Chaired by Councillor E C Edwards. She outlined the 10 priorities which would be delivered in partnership with other public sector organisations, the community, voluntary sector and private business. Members agreed to add “community” to item (iii) on page 17 of the Strategy.

With regard to DEG 8 Better Transport Links, Councillor S A Davies said the Minister for Economy and Transport was unlikely to improve road links between North and South Wales as adequate train links were available. Councillor Davies said the Authority and Community Councils should press the Assembly for improved links.

Councillor P A Dobb was pleased to see social care included in the Strategy and said it was important to work with the private sector in both rural and urban areas.

The document was welcomed by Councillor E C Edwards. He referred to DEG 9 Community Regeneration and the importance of the Key Fund and thanked the Key Fund /Rhyl Going Forward Officer for all his work. He stressed the need to consider both town and rural development with each town having its own economic development plan with the adjoining rural areas being linked in to those plans. It was important to ensure community involvement in the Strategy. Councillor Hughes agreed and said town strategies were being progressed.

Councillor S Roberts was pleased that culture and tourism was being taken forward in the Strategy and stressed its importance to the economy. Councillor D Owens referred to the Opto-electronics industries and said it was important to encourage their continued involvement in the County's schools. Councillor E W Williams, referring generally to the condition of the roads, said it was important that people were able to travel to and in the County comfortably which would encourage business and tourism opportunities.

***RESOLVED** that Members approve the Economic Growth Strategy for Denbighshire.*

## 136 EUROPEAN UNION CONVERGENCE PROGRAMME ACTION PLAN FOR DENBIGHSHIRE

Councillor R W Hughes presented the report seeking Members' approval of the matrix of projects developed by the Council's Working Group on Convergence as a basis for future attempts to attract resources from the European Union's 2007-2013 Convergence Programme.

Councillor Hughes said the WLGA had set up an officer and Member Group to monitor progress and she would be representing the Independent Group.

In response to a query from Councillor E W Williams, Councillor Hughes said Harlech and Menai Colleges were included as regional working examples. Councillor Williams stressed the importance of including

areas outside the Vale of Clwyd, such as Bryneglwys or Llandegla for example, who had not traditionally felt part of the Vale.

Councillor J Thompson Hill welcomed the document and the hard work by officers.

Referring to Rural Development, Councillor H H Evans (Observer) asked why this had not been included as a priority. The Principal Regeneration Manager confirmed that rural development would be included.

The Chief Executive said it was important projects were identified, for example projects from the Regional Partnership Board.

Councillor E C Edwards emphasised the need for officers to ensure consultation with Area Elected Member Groups once confirmation of the programme details have been confirmed by the Welsh Assembly Government. It was vital that Local Members were involved in all the schemes in the County.

The Head of Development Services asked that Members contact his department with any good local or potential retrospective projects as soon as possible. He said the programme was moving slowly and it was hoped this would move along more quickly in the autumn.

The Principal European Officer informed Members that the matrix attached to the report was part of the North West Wales Matrix. There were currently 111 projects listed, some of which would be combined into larger projects.

**RESOLVED** that Members approve the draft 2007-2013 EU Convergence Programme Project Matrix as the basis of future attempts to attract resources from the EU Convergence Programme.

## 137 WEST RHYL REGENERATION STRATEGY - IMPLEMENTATION

Councillor E W Williams presented the report seeking Members' support that as a matter of policy any future development on the blocks of properties identified on the plan attached as Appendix 1 to the report, along West Parade Rhyl should be in accordance with the approved West Rhyl Regeneration Strategy, in accordance with site development briefs prepared and be comprehensive re-development – rather than piecemeal. He said Rhyl was becoming more revitalised.

Councillor R W Hughes said many properties in poor structural condition were being refurbished and many were private investment. This was leading to Rhyl's resurgence as a popular seaside resort. She referred to criticism or the progress being made in Rhyl by some Rhyl Councillors, although they had been involved in the consultation process. Councillor S Roberts expressed her delight with the Strategy and also her annoyance at the attitude of some Rhyl colleagues. Councillor S A Davies reminded Members that the Authority and the Assembly had invested a lot of money in Rhyl and it was not acceptable for negative comments to be made by Rhyl colleagues.

Rhyl Going Forward had been highlighted as good practice, at the recent WLGA Conference attended by Councillor J Thompson Hill, and he stressed the importance of investments in the town being made by the private sector.

Councillor E W Williams said Denbighshire had focussed on Rhyl and had addressed many of the problems facing the residents. However, Councillor T R Hughes (Observer) said many of the problems seen in Rhyl were now to be found in towns like Ruthin and Llangollen.

**RESOLVED** that Members approve the following additional guidance in addition to the previously approved WRRS, in particular that any development in the following blocks of property:

- (a) Town Centre – West Parade / High St / Queen St / Sussex Street
- (b) 50 – 57 West Parade (inclusive)
- (c) West Parade block from Sydenham Avenue – Sandringham Avenue

(ch) 85 – 90 West Parade (inclusive)

*should be in accordance with the approved West Rhyl Regeneration Strategy, comprehensive re-development only – and not piecemeal and in accordance with site development briefs prepared.*

At this juncture (11.45 a.m.) the meeting adjourned for 15 minutes to allow Members to participate in refreshments.

### **138 LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY**

Councillor P A Dobb presented the report seeking Cabinet's recommendation to Council that the draft Denbighshire Local Housing Strategy (LHS) for 2007 - 2012 be adopted. The County was required to submit the Strategy to the Assembly by 30.06.2007.

The Strategy covered many key housing issues including affordable housing, homelessness, the condition of the County's housing stock, the local Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) housing strategy, migrant workers and gypsy and traveller housing needs. The Strategy had been well received by the Social Services and Housing Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Dobb reported that the Affordable Housing Task and Finish Group had been established and had recently had their first meeting. A discussion with Planning colleagues on the way forward would be held and officers would be asked to communicate with the public on what constitutes affordable or local housing. The Group will also lobby AMs and MPs on what the County wanted. She thanked the Housing Strategy Officer and the Housing Strategy Manager for an excellent document.

Councillor E C Edwards thanked Councillor Dobb for agreeing to establish the Task Group. He felt it was important to agree on the meaning of 'affordable'. At some point in the future there could be a need to house gypsies and travellers over the winter months. He stressed the need to treat BME Groups equally and went on to suggest the Regional Partnership Board should be considering Local Housing Strategies.

The Corporate Director: Social Services and Housing said it was hoped to continue with the Rural Housing Enabler Project partnerships.

Some of the costs referred to in paragraph 4.6 were already included in the budget round. The Chief Executive said the Authority was working with others on housing needs assessments and other matters needed to be progressed through the funding process. It was important to invest resources to drive forward the improvement in housing stock owned by private landlords.

Referring to the Affordable Warmth Strategy and energy efficiency, Councillor J Thompson Hill asked to be involved in any future discussions.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet recommend to Council that the Denbighshire Local Housing Strategy for 2007 - 2012 be adopted.

### **139 MODERNISING EDUCATION UPDATE**

Councillor D Owens presented the report seeking Members' agreement to the arrangements for publishing and consulting widely on the Cambridge Modernising Education Report outlined in the report and to agree to the additional cost of Cambridge Education coordinating responses to the Report as outlined.

Members expressed their surprise to see a further request for funding for additional costs. The Corporate Director: Lifelong Learning said the Directorate could fund the additional costs for co-ordinating the responses. He stressed the importance that the process must be fair and transparent and the best way forward would be for Cambridge Education to co-ordinate responses. Councillor S A Davies suggested

Cambridge Education be asked to carry out the extra work at no extra cost. However, the Chief Executive reminded Councillor Davies that this was additional work, over and above that originally agreed and had been requested by Members.

The Corporate Director: Lifelong Learning said it was important that Members took ownership and responsibility of the process and its outcomes. A clear timetable and action was required for all stakeholders and he said it was important that schools and staff were familiar with the process and consultation. He agreed to provide the timetable in a bullet point format.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet agree the arrangements for publishing and consulting widely on the Cambridge Modernising Education Report as outlined.

#### 140 PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE A CHARGE FOR POST 16 TRANSPORT

Councillor D Owens presented the report seeking Members' agreement to introduce charging for post 16 transport and to lobby the Welsh Assembly Government and local Assembly Members to provide additional funding for post 16 transport to meet the shortfall, and to seek the support of the WLGA and other Councils for this action.

Councillor Owens referred to the typographic error in paragraphs 2.6.2 and 10.1 of the report and said the Authority was responsible for funding 6<sup>th</sup> form or college education. Councillor Owens asked for Members' agreement to amend the Recommendation at paragraph 10.4 to read "Agrees to review the exemption in the future".

Correspondence with the then Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning had confirmed no new funding would be available but new legislation would be brought in.

Councillor P A Dobb supported as many pupils staying in school or college as possible but suggested transport there should become their responsibility. She cited Social Services where fees for older people or people with learning disabilities were charged for. She said the Council already had a high Council Tax and this should be included as part of the efficiency savings in the budget round.

The Chief Executive reminded Members that staying on in school or college after age 16 was Government policy. Councillor Owens agreed and said by staying on in education this gave the country a higher skills base.

Councillor J Thompson Hill referred to climate change and said the costs to pupils of transporting themselves to school or college would be higher than £200. He suggested a fixed timescale was required to review the exemption and that Recommendation 10.4 should not be amended. The exemption could be reviewed in the future.

Responding to Councillor Dobb's comments, Councillor E W Williams said the elderly were given free bus passes. He could not support charging pupils for transport and suggested the Authority should continue to lobby the Assembly.

Councillor R W Hughes agreed the Assembly should continue to be asked to consider the issue and asked officers to ascertain which Assembly Members had written to the Minister on post 16 transport. She referred to the Appendix to the report and said that Scrutiny Committees should not be threatening Cabinet of their intention to challenge any decision Cabinet by Cabinet to introduce a charge.

Councillor R E Barton (Observer) asked whether any assessment had been made on the possible negative impact on the Pathways Project if charging was introduced and whether the rural student take-up had been quantified.

The Chief Executive said the Authority should have in the past argued for post 16 funding to be transferred to ELWa. He agreed to correspond with the Welsh Assembly Government and press for further information on the statements made.

Councillor H H Evans (Observer) was surprised at Councillor Dobb's comments and said charging would have a great impact on the rural wards in Denbighshire and on lower income families - it would dissuade pupils from going on to further education. He urged Members to bear this in mind when taking their decision.

Councillor P A Dobb said she could not support Recommendation 10.3.

On being put to the vote, Councillor J Thompson Hill's amendment to reinstate in full Recommendation 10.4 was lost.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet:

- 1 *Notes that the Council is responsible for funding 6th form or college education but that the Welsh Assembly Government's funding to Denbighshire for 6th form and college transport is £140k lower than budgeted costs in 2007-08, representing £127 for each student over the age of 16 who uses this transport*
- 2 *In line with the corporate policy on charging, sets the charge for post 16 transport at £200 for each student with effect from September 2008 to achieve full cost recovery including administration costs. This figure is £127 plus 10% inflation plus administration costs of £28k but assuming "leakage" at 20%*
- 3 *Decides to exempt all students from the charge in 10.2 because of its potential adverse impact on take up of education, particularly by students in rural areas, and because of potential forthcoming legislation on school and college transport in Wales*
- 4 *Agrees to review the exemption in the future*
- 5 *Agrees to lobby the Welsh Assembly Government and local AMs to provide the additional funding that is required in order to remove the continuing unfair pressure on Council tax payers to meet the costs of transport for post 16 education, and seeks support from the Welsh Local Government Association and other councils for this action.*

**141 REVIEW OF 16-19 PROVISION IN RHYL**

Councillor D Owens presented the report seeking Members' consideration of the Cambridge Education Review of 16-19 Provision in Rhyl and agree to note the recommendations in the Cambridge Education Review of 16-19 Provision in Rhyl; authorise public consultation on the report until end September, with a report back to Cabinet in October on responses and impacts on the proposals, including impact analysis and detailed costings of recommendations and guidance on statutory processes. Cabinet were also asked to agree to a report being provided to Council in July on the report and the steps taken by the Cabinet.

Councillor Owens welcomed the Acting Head of Rhyl High School to the meeting. Some age 14 plus pupils in Rhyl were dissatisfied with the current provision. Councillor Owens said a new 6<sup>th</sup> form centre at the Rhyl College site was the way forward with this provision being led by DECWL rather than Rhyl College. This would give the best learning opportunities to pupils.

The Corporate Director: Lifelong Learning said a further report would be presented to Cabinet in September 2007. Mr Mark Edwards, the newly appointed Headteacher of Rhyl High School would

consider the issue in detail once he had taken up appointment and DECWL have agreed the consultation period could be extended.

Councillor E W Williams said it was important that the 14-19 Learning Pathways fitted into any new arrangements and that this was linked to colleges or problems would still arise.

Councillor S Roberts had been invited to a meeting by the Rhyl High School Chair of Governors but had not been able to attend and was concerned that if a 6<sup>th</sup> form college was established in Rhyl, the pupils would be in a 'college scenario' and much supervision of young people would be lost.

Councillor H H Evans (Observer) referred to the debate by the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee. He said the momentum from DECWL on the capital issue was of concern as this could have a knock on effect on other schools. He supported the principle of the provision but was concerned with the speed of the process.

The Corporate Director: Lifelong Learning said special meetings would be convened in September 2007 including with Rhyl Town Council and a public meeting. He stressed that policy and not funding would drive the process forward.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet note the recommendations in the Cambridge Education Review of 16-19 Provision in Rhyl; authorise public consultation on the report until end September with a report back on responses and impacts on the proposals, including impact analysis and detailed costings of recommendations and guidance on statutory processes. Cabinet also agree a report be provided to Council in July on the report and the steps taken by the Cabinet.

#### 142 DENBIGHSHIRE'S RECYCLING PARK STRATEGY

Councillor E W Williams presented the report seeking Members' approval of the recommended course of action in relation to the development of the Council's recycling parks.

Councillor Williams asked Members to note the typographical error in Recommendation 9.3 which should be amended to read "... health and safety issues ...". He asked for Members' agreement to add a further Recommendation at 9.5, namely "Cabinet further agree consultation will commence with the remaining Area Elected Member Groups".

Councillor M A German said the Authority was moving in the right direction in regard to its responsible actions on waste and recycling. It was important the County had a dedicated site. Councillor S Roberts supported Councillor German's views.

Councillor S A Davies welcomed the report and felt the recycling site in Llangollen was not fit for purpose. He suggested more "bring sites" were required in rural areas and the County should offer to waive large item charges which would help to publicise the idea.

Whilst agreeing its importance, Councillor P A Dobb said she could not support the proposal in isolation. For example with having to travel further to sites, hazardous chemicals could be dumped on agricultural land and travelling further could lead to problems for older people. She could only support the principle if a plan for rural areas was established. Councillor J Thompson Hill, whilst supporting a purpose built site, said Prestatyn for example had an elderly population and the Authority should not expect the elderly to travel further to the new recycling park in Rhuddlan.

Councillor G O Rowlands fully supported the project and emphasised the need for Denbighshire to meet its recycling targets otherwise the Authority would face harsh financial penalties. He also felt the sites at both Rhyl and Prestatyn were outdated.

Councillor R E Barton (Observer) said inadequate Government funding had been made available for recycling and he suggested both the WLGA and the Welsh Assembly Government be asked to consider funding for recycling provision in rural areas.

It was suggested by Councillor T R Hughes (Observer) that street recycling facilities for items such as tin, paper, green waste, plastic and free household item disposal be put in place before closing any sites.

Councillor R W Hughes said it was important to keep dialogue ongoing with Members in regard to facilities.

The Chief Executive informed Members that if any adverse health and safety issues arose on any of the current sites and the site had to be shut, this would be carried out whether or not alternative arrangements were in place.

Councillor E C Edwards said Area Elected Members Group should discuss the issue and suggested perhaps a partnership arrangement could be formed with neighbouring Authorities such as Wrexham which would benefit some areas of the County.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet supports the principle of replacing the existing civic amenity sites with three improved recycling parks and recognises and accepts that this strategy will necessitate the closure of several existing facilities, and that the order in which the necessary changes are introduced will be determined on a cost effectiveness basis. Cabinet recognises and accepts that any unresolved health and safety issues may also result in the closure of facilities. Cabinet confirms approval for the development of a new recycling park in the Rhuddlan area, together with the closure of the old Rhyl and Prestatyn CA sites when the existing contract runs out in April 2009. Cabinet further agree consultation will commence with the remaining Area Elected Member Groups.

At this juncture (1.55 p.m) the meeting adjourned for 15 minutes to allow Members to participate in refreshments.

#### 143 ASSET CHALLENGE PROCESS

Councillor J Thompson Hill presented the report to inform Cabinet of the need for the Service Asset Management Plans (SAMPs) to be scrutinized and challenged and sought approval of the proposals for an asset challenge process to be implemented as detailed in the report. As Culture and Leisure and Lifelong Learning were the two services who had completed their SAMPs, he asked Members to contact officers regarding SAMPs which had not been completed as soon as possible.

Councillor Thompson Hill detailed the Suitability, Condition and Sufficiency core sets of data which would identify poorly performing assets from each SAMP. Scoring would be as per the matrix attached to the report with 18 points being the cut off. The 5 highest scoring assets would be brought through the process.

In response to Councillor R W Hughes' question regarding Scrutiny approval, the Principal Asset Manager said Asset Management Plans were approved by the Lead Member. Councillor Hughes reminded colleagues it was essential that Lead Members were always made aware of what items were to be considered by Scrutiny Committee.

The Welsh Assembly Government have said each Authority has to have an asset management process and challenge in place but have not said how this is to be done. The proposed system was the fairest.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet notes the need for the Service AMP's to be scrutinized and challenged and approves the proposals for an asset challenge process to be implemented as detailed in the report.



**144 MONITORING THE AUTHORITY'S KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND PROGRESS AGAINST THE KEY ACTIONS IN THE IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Councillor S A Davies presented the report for Members to consider the Corporate Quarterly Performance report:

Performance against the Authority's key performance indicators for the 4<sup>th</sup> period -January, February, March 2007 and final data for 2006-2007 (Appendix 1)

Progress against the Authority's Corporate Objectives and key actions identified in the Improvement Plan 2006-2009 (Appendix 2)

and that Cabinet consider any issue in greater depth as deemed necessary.

Councillor S Roberts said the deadline for the Tourism Strategy was June 2008.

Councillor E C Edwards referred to the strong partnership built up with the North Wales Police and praised the Chief Executive for his efforts in maintaining the partnership. He also referred to the excellent work done on the Community Safety Partnership which the Corporate Director: Environment and the Community Safety Partnership Manager / Regulatory and Enforcement Officer. The Corporate Director: Environment referred to the Community Safety Partnership who were aggrieved that the Council were shown as failing in the indicator but in reality the Partnership was the 7<sup>th</sup> best out of 376 in the UK. There were over 1,000 less victims of crime over the last 3 years.

Councillor E W Williams said targets would have been met if the green waste collections had started earlier.

Councillor P A Dobb said many of the 250 applications to possible Houses in Multiple Occupation were being returned with indications that they did not meet the licensing criteria.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet note the proposed Quarterly Performance Report and agree to pay particular attention to issues requiring further discussion and/or remedial action, particularly those indicators which are not on target.

**145 FINAL REVENUE ACCOUNTS 2006-2008**

The Financial Controller presented the report on behalf of the Deputy Chief Executive / Corporate Director: Resources, seeking Members' consideration of the final revenue outturn position for 2006/07 and recommend to full Council and also recommend to Council the treatment of reserves as detailed in the report.

The Financial Controller referred to the schools delegated budgets and the substantial improvements in schools balances as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report. The general balances were now at the Wales Audit Office recommended level i.e. 5% of the net revenue budget, excluding Schools Delegated budgets.

The Chief Executive asked Members to note the good progress made by the Authority. Councillor G O Rowlands thanked staff and Lead Members for their work and hoped for further improvements.

**RESOLVED** that Members note the final revenue outturn position for the year ended 31 March 2006 and recommend accordingly to Full Council. Members further recommend the establishment of and movements in reserves and the carrying forward of earmarked balances as detailed in 4.2 and 4.7 of the report to full Council.

**146 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET & CAPITAL PLAN REPORT 2007-2008**

Councillor P A Dobb presented the report for Members to note the latest financial forecast position of the Housing Revenue Account (H.R.A.) for the current financial year.

The Authority achieved a surplus in 2006-2007 of £905k against a budgeted surplus of £333k, some of which was due to being paid less than originally planned in the final subsidy payment to the Assembly. The Housing Stock Business Plan had been fully updated to allow for all changes and the total expenditure for 2006-2007 was £6.2m. For the first time a contingency element had been built into the Housing Revenue Capital Plan which, for example, would allow for any unforeseen urgent works.

**RESOLVED** that Members note the latest financial forecast position of the Housing Revenue Account (H.R.A.) for the current financial year.

**147 REVENUE BUDGET PROJECTED OUTTURN 2007-2008 AND SUMMARY CAPITAL PLAN 2007-2008 TO 2009-2010**

Councillor G O Rowlands presented the report for Members to note the budget performance figures for the 2007/08 financial year as detailed in Appendix 1 and note the summary capital plan performance for 2007/08 financial year as detailed in Appendices 2 and 3. Members were also asked to note the capital expenditure area analysis shown in Appendix 4 attached to the report. He referred to a potential pressure which could arise from the threat of mould damage to archive material stored in Yr Hen Garchar.

**RESOLVED** that Members note the budget performance figures for 2007/08 as detailed in Appendix 1 and the summary capital plan performance figures for 2007/08 financial year as detailed in Appendices 2 and 3.

**148 ROUTINE REPORTING ON PERSONNEL**

Councillor S A Davies presented the report for Members to note the report on the staff headcount. He said the previous year's figures had been included as a comparison.

Agency figures were again requested by Councillor J Thompson Hill and Councillor S A Davies said these would be provided.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet note the information in the report.

**149 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

Councillor S A Davies presented the Cabinet Forward Work Programme.

The Corporate Director: Lifelong Learning said a report on Rhyl Post 16 Education would be provided in October 2007.

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

**150 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 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

## PART II

### 151 CAPITAL PLAN

Councillor G O Rowlands presented the report for Members to note the latest position on the 2007/2008 element of the Capital Plan. Members were asked to recommend that Council authorises officers to continue to sign the contract with DECWL for the Community Learning Centres project subject to the conditions shown in section 2.3 of the report. He asked that the increased costs of the Pen y Pigyn (Bryn Tyner) project and how it is to be funded be noted along with the increased costs of the Ysgol Emmanuel scheme and how it is to be funded.

Members received an update on the Community Learning Centres from the Corporate Director: Lifelong Learning. It was hoped the final contract would be signed by the end of July 2007. However, the Corporate Director: Lifelong Learning outlined the risks if the European match funding ceased before the project was completed. In response to a query from Councillor G O Rowlands, both the Corporate Director: Lifelong Learning and Head of Development Services said there would be additional risks to the Authority if the projects were stopped. The Chief Executive said DECWL would have to pay the grant once the contract had been signed.

The County Clerk referred to Recommendation 9.2 and asked for Members' agreement to include the Deputy Chief Executive / Corporate Director: Resources and the County Clerk being satisfied that the conditions in section 2.3 of the report were being met.

With regard to the increased costs for Bryn Tyner, the Head of Development Services said it was possible some funding would become available from the Government for certain environmental aspects of the scheme. Councillor J Thompson Hill also reminded Members that once works were completed, the property would be sold which would add to the Capital budget.

In regard to Ysgol Emmanuel increased costs, the Corporate Director: Lifelong Learning said the decision to agree the extra items was taken by officers in order to move the scheme forward, because of the overall project size. Councillor J Thompson Hill said part of the cost overrun was as a result of the increased works requested by the client department, and part due to unforeseen groundworks due to the nature of the area in which the work was being carried out. The Head of Development Services said future projects could again go over the original budgeted cost if unforeseen problems arose.

**RESOLVED** that Members note the latest position on the 2007/2008 element of the Capital Plan. Members recommend that Council authorises officers to continue to sign the contract with DECWL for the Community Learning Centres project, subject to the suggested amendment referred to above in respect of Recommendation 9.2 and the conditions shown in section 2.3 of the report. Members note the increased costs of the Pen y Pigyn (Bryn Tyner) project and how it is to be funded along with the increased costs of the Ysgol Emmanuel scheme and how it is to be funded.

The meeting concluded at 3.10 p.m.

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