

CHIEF EXECUTIVE – EXECUTIVE DECISIONS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held at 12.00 noon on Tuesday 30 October 2007 in the Cabinet Room, Level III, County Hall, Ruthin to discuss reports in accordance with Article 7.3.7 (a) of the Denbighshire County Council Constitution whereby the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and the Authority's Monitoring Officer, shall have delegated responsibility to make any necessary executive decisions which would have been taken by the Cabinet, a Cabinet Committee or a Cabinet Member, following the successful Notice of Motion on 22.10.2007 when the Leader and Cabinet were removed from office by resolution of Council.

PRESENT

I R Miller, Chief Executive; R Parry, Acting Section 151 Officer (and Financial Controller); I K Hearle, Monitoring Officer (and County Clerk), I Prys Jones, Corporate Director: Environment and S Ellis, Corporate Director: Social Services and Housing.

APOLOGIES

Deputy Chief Executive / Corporate Director: Resources.

440 MINUTES OF THE CABINET

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

Amendment – to Also Present - the Chief Executive was not present at the meeting.

***DECIDED** that, subject to the above, the minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chief Executive.*

441 ACTION PLAN FOR ESTYN REPORT

The report by the Acting Director of Education / Interim Head of School Improvement detailed the progress to date on the Action Plan and sought approval of the Action Plan for submission to the Welsh Assembly Government and Estyn by 5 November 2007, subject to any improvements and amendments identified as necessary before then.

All Elected Members had been invited to a meeting earlier in the day in County Hall, Ruthin to debate the report and Action Plan. Twenty two Members had attended the meeting and an extensive debate ensued on the Action Plan. The comments from that meeting would be considered in finalising the Action Plan to be submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government and Estyn.

***DECIDED** the Chief Executive notes the progress to date on the Action Plan and approves the Action Plan for submission to the Welsh Assembly Government and Estyn by 5 November 2007, subject to the improvements and amendments identified as necessary before then.*

442 RHYL POST 16 EDUCATION

The report by the Acting Director of Education / Interim Head of School Improvement sought a decision on the acceptability of the Cambridge Education proposal regarding changing 16-19 provision in Rhyl and agreement to instigate formal consultation.

It was agreed a comma be added to line 8, following the word 'proposal'.

The Chief Executive said it was important, if both the schools and college developed an alternative proposal, detailed costs would have to be provided. The current report sought agreement to start the consultation process, which would allow both options to be developed and costed before a final decision was taken.

DECIDED the Chief Executive agrees that:

- (1) *formal consultation on closing the 6th forms with effect from September 2009 should commence, **subject to***
 - (a) *the full Council agreeing on 20 November 2007 that it would be prepared in principle to amend the single education plan; **and***
 - (b) *the Welsh Assembly Government agreeing to delegate to the Council the Minister's powers to make a proposal in respect of the sixth form at Blessed Edward Jones High School.*
- (2) *a recommendation be submitted to full Council on 20 November 2007 that it should be prepared in principle to amend the single education plan accordingly.*
- (3) *the alternative model produced by the Schools and College be considered and that the costs of this approach and closure of the sixth forms be evaluated fully during formal consultation.*
- (4) *the Schools and College be requested to review the prospects for current Year 11 students in September 2008, including the transitional arrangements that might be necessary.*

443 RENEWAL AREA STATUS FOR WEST PARADE, RHYL

The report sought the support of the Chief Executive to declare Renewal Area status for West Parade Rhyl.

The Corporate Director: Social Services and Housing said Housing Services did not appear to have been consulted on the proposal. Any renewal area status could lead to properties being demolished with a consequent need for tenants to be rehoused, which would have revenue funding implications. Overall she supported the scheme but there were some implications which she felt had not been fully explored nor revenue implications fully understood. Some items such as the community development work in the action plan attached to the report did not include any reference to revenue funding.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the report be supported subject to the confirmation and approval of revenue consequences.

DECIDED: *The Chief Executive supports the declaration of the West Parade Renewal Area prior to the submission of the NRA to the Welsh Assembly Government, subject to confirmation and approval of revenue consequences.*

444 SECTION 33 AGREEMENT – DENBIGHSHIRE COMMUNITY OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICE

The draft Section 33 Agreement for a Community Occupational Therapy Service within Denbighshire was presented for the Chief Executive's approval.

The Chief Executive reported he had received amendments which would need to be included in the Agreement.

DECIDED *that the Chief Executive approves the Section 33 Agreement for a Community Occupational Therapy Service within Denbighshire, subject to the amendments received by the Chief Executive.*

445 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET & CAPITAL PLAN REPORT 2007-2008

The latest financial forecast position of the Housing Revenue Account (H.R.A.) for the current financial year was presented in the report.

DECIDED *that the latest financial forecast position of the Housing Revenue Account (H.R.A.) for the current financial year be noted.*

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

The budget performance figures for the 2007/08 financial year as detailed in Appendix 1 and the summary capital plan performance for 2007/08 financial year as detailed in Appendices 2 and 3 were presented in the report.

The Financial Controller referred to current further pressures within the Education Service, in particular the concern regarding the £300k deficit in the current year for Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn as the school would have fewer external placements than planned, which was due to the facility not being open for the start of the school year. The worst case scenario would be a deficit for the following year which would be a cost on the Authority. He confirmed that the deficit position was part of the non delegated education budget.

Further pressures were arising in Blessed Edward Jones High School, Rhyl and the clean-up costs for the mould in Archives Service would be included in the following month's report.

The Chief Executive said the projected overspend in Lifelong Learning had already caused him to limit recruitment apart from essential requirements such as the Estyn Action Plan, and in schools.

The Financial Controller said clarification of the Translation service position was awaited.

It was suggested that underspends by other Directorates could be used to offset the position. The Corporate Director: Environment stated that it was important that services understood they could not be 'bailed out' financially every year. The Financial Controller reminded colleagues that there was a need for continued growth in the Authority's balances to keep pace with the growth in the revenue budget, but in the present circumstances this would be difficult. Using underspends this year would avoid top slicing budgets for a contribution to balances in the next financial year.

***DECIDED** that the Chief Executive notes 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. A meeting with Lifelong Learning Heads of Service be convened.*

447 ROUTINE REPORTING ON PERSONNEL

The report detailed the latest position on the staff headcount.

Following discussion it was agreed future reports did not require figures for each service in respect of the sickness absence bar charts, only the Directorate figures to be included. One version only was required of the short term v long term absence for Directorate figures. It was agreed that the Percentage of Completed Performance Appraisals information be supplied every 6 months.

***DECIDED** that the information in the report be noted and future information be provided as above.*

448 MONITORING THE ACTIONS AGREED BY CABINET

The report detailed the progress the Authority was making against the actions which had been agreed by Cabinet since the 12 September 2006 and the update on the actions agreed since 1 January 2006 (Appendix I refers).

***DECIDED** that the Chief Executive notes the progress the Authority is making against the actions which have been agreed by Cabinet since the 12 September 2006.*

449 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The report detailed the reports due to come before Cabinet in the coming months.

It was agreed that the Budget proposals be included in reports to Cabinet in November and December 2007 and January 2008.

Following discussion, it was agreed an additional Cabinet meeting be held on Tuesday 5 February 2008 to discuss and finalise the budget.

DECIDED to note the Cabinet Forward Work Programme. It was further agreed an additional Cabinet meeting be held on 05.02.2008.

PART II

450 AWARD OF 2 CONTRACTS FOR WORK OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY IN NORTH DENBIGHSHIRE

Approval was sought to award two contracts for the provision of work opportunity services for adults with a learning disability in north Denbighshire under a non-binding framework agreement after a formal tendering exercise was completed.

DECIDED that four year contracts are awarded to Co-Options Co-Operative Limited and Crest Co-Operative Limited under a non-binding framework agreement arrangement.

451 SUPPORTING PEOPLE – DENBIGHSHIRE GIFT PROJECT – CONTRACT AWARD

Approval was sought to award of the Supporting People Contract for the 'Denbighshire GIFT Project' (GIFT – Generic Intensive Floating Support Team) to Denbighshire County Council Housing Partnership.

It was suggested that the partnership organisation be put on a firmer legal footing.

The Chief Executive asked that future reports on contracts include the number of people / organisations tendering.

DECIDED to award of the 'Denbighshire GIFT' contract to Denbighshire County Council Housing Partnership.

452 CAPITAL PLAN

The report detailed the latest position on the 2007-2008 element of the Capital Plan.

The Financial Controller agreed to verify the Community Learning Centres and BREEAM conditions regarding grants.

In regard to Appendix 2.1, the Corporate Director: Environment said up to date figures for the transport and housing improvement figures were required. He would discuss with the Principal Management Accountant and the Head of Finance and Performance.

DECIDED that, subject to the above, the latest position on the 2007-2008 element of the Capital Plan be noted.

The meeting concluded at 12.45 p.m.
