

CABINET

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held at 4.00 p.m. on Wednesday 14 April 2010 in Conference Room 1, County Hall, Ruthin.

PRESENT

Councillors P A Dobb, Lead Member for Health, Social Care and Wellbeing, H H Evans, Leader; S Frobisher, Lead Member for Environment and Sustainable Development; R W Hughes, Lead Member for Customers and Communities; M M Jones, Lead Member for Welsh Language, Children, Young People and Leisure; P J Marfleet, Lead Member for Modernising the Council; D A J Thomas, Lead Member for Regeneration and Tourism, J Thompson Hill, Lead Member for Finance and Efficiency and E W Williams, Lead Member for Education.

Observers: Councillors M LI Davies, R L Feeley and C Hughes.

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive; Corporate Director: Social Services and Housing, Corporate Director: Governance and Efficiency; Chief Financial Officer, Legal Services Manager and Head of Modernising Education.

APOLOGIES

Head of Corporate Governance; Corporate Director: Environment and Corporate Director: Lifelong Learning.

869 URGENT MATTERS

There were no urgent matters.

870 MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING 30.03.2010

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 30 March 2010 were submitted.

***RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.*

871 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Councillor H H Evans presented the Cabinet Forward Work Programme. He informed Members that the report due on 27.04.2010 on the contract Extension for Substance Misuse Services for Children was a Delegated Decision.

Members agreed the report on Hyfrydle – Preferred Future Use of the Building would be presented on 25.05.2010 and the report on the Agricultural Estates Review would be presented on 30.09.2010, whilst the report on the Performance Framework for the Community Strategy be removed from the Forward Work Plan. It was noted that a report on the Medium Term Financial Plan be presented on 27.04.2010 and that the Community Capital Projects budget allocation be presented in June with the review being presented in July 2010.

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

872 ISSUES REFERRED TO CABINET BY THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There were no issues referred to Cabinet by the Scrutiny Committees.

873 URGENT ITEMS

There were no Urgent Items.

PART II

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.

874 COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITY: CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Councillor M M Jones presented the report seeking Cabinet approval to seek formal commitment to explore the opportunity to create an integrated Children's Service with Conwy with the appointment of a Joint Head of Service. Agreement was also sought to continue planning for an integrated service, prior to submission to Cabinet for formal decision in May 2010.

The situation had arisen with the recent departure to another Authority of Denbighshire's Head of Children's Services. Councillor Jones outlined both the costs of the project across the two Authorities and also the risks. The matter had been discussed by Scrutiny Committee who had acknowledged the benefits of exploring the viability of developing an integrated Children's Services. It was important that staff be kept informed and be involved in discussions on the way forward.

Responding to a query from Councillor J Thompson Hill regarding governance arrangements, the Corporate Director: Social Services and Housing said this and staff employment issues, for example, would be considered during the process. She said Conwy County Borough Council had agreed to proceed with exploring the provision of a joint service. Councillor E W Williams asked about funding for the system and the Corporate Director said that funding sources were being explored.

Councillor S Frobisher queried the ICT systems in use by the two Authorities. The Corporate Director: Social Services and Housing said that the Head of ICT was considering this and the Authorities were already using PARIS for example, although in a slightly different way. Councillor P J Marfleet agreed there would be hurdles to overcome by both ICT departments but this should not stop the project.

The Chief Executive said he and the Leader had discussed with Leighton Andrews, Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning and Carl Sargeant, Minister for Social Justice and Local Government joint working and alignment of structures and infrastructure as a way forward generally for Local Authorities, although both sides agreed these issues would not happen overnight. The Ministers were looking for good models of collaboration which could be used elsewhere in Wales.

Councillor P A Dobb queried the statutory responsibilities and how these would be met. The Corporate Director Social Services and Housing said statutory guidance was available from the Welsh Assembly Government on the role of the Director and this was another issue which would be given detailed consideration.

Councillor H H Evans asked how CSSIW would be involved. The Corporate Director: Social Services and Housing said initial discussions had already been held with CSSIW and as regulators they wished to ensure appropriate standards continued to be delivered for children's services and they would be part of the governance arrangements as observers. The Chief Executive said joint working would be an opportunity to improve services and it was imperative that social care provision was resilient.

RESOLVED that Cabinet gives a formal commitment to explore the opportunity to create an integrated Children's Service with Conwy with the appointment of a Joint Head of Service and agrees for officers to continue planning for an integrated service, prior to submission to Cabinet for formal decision in May 2010.

The meeting concluded at 4.35 p.m.
