

CABINET

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday 22 June 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; 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 W L Cowie; G C Evans and G M Kensler.

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive; Corporate Director: Environment; Corporate Director: Social Services and Housing; Corporate Director: Governance and Efficiency; Corporate Director: Lifelong Learning; Chief Financial Officer and the Head of Corporate Governance.

APOLOGIES

Councillor M M Jones, Lead Member for Welsh Language, Children, Young People and Leisure.

WELCOME

Councillor H H Evans welcomed Mrs H Vernon and colleagues, Bodnant Infant and Junior Schools, Prestatyn to the meeting.

121 URGENT MATTERS

The Corporate Director: Social Services & Housing provided Members with a briefing update paper for Item 4 of the last meeting, Merger of Denbighshire and Conwy Children's Services.

122 MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING 25.05.2010

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 25 May 2010 were submitted.

Item 4 Merger of Denbighshire and Conwy Children's Services: The Corporate Director: Social Services and Housing informed Members that the wording of what had been agreed by the Conwy County Borough Council (Conwy CBC) Cabinet was detailed on pages 1 and 2 of her report. They had not agreed at this stage to the merger but had agreed to carry out more scoping work before making decisions on the merits of a merger. The risks of accepting the approach agreed by Conwy CBC included an extended uncertainty for staff and the costs of supplying an interim Head of Service via an agency. Conwy could make a decision by September 2010 on whether to proceed with the proposed merger but might not.

There were 2 options – Denbighshire could either follow the approach set out by Conwy CBC or proceed to re-advertise the role of Head of Children and Family Services with the commitment to continue to co-work and align with Conwy in areas of priorities to both Counties.

Councillor P J Marfleet expressed his disappointment at the decision made by Conwy CBC Cabinet. Councillor H H Evans also said he was disappointed they had had a change of approach to this. He was hoping to have a meeting with the Leader of Conwy CBC and relevant Lead Members as soon as possible and that it was important that Conwy CBC understood that Denbighshire would wish to continue to collaborate in future on varying issues.

Referring to the recent WLGA Conference, Councillor S Frobisher reminded colleagues that the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, Carl Sargeant, had said Authorities would have to collaborate and move forward. She also said being without a Head of Service for a long time could

pose risks and the service had to be maintained and looked after in the meantime. Councillor J Thompson Hill agreed what was best for children in both Denbighshire and Conwy was paramount and he felt there was no option other than to follow what had been outlined by the Corporate Director. Councillor R W Hughes said that the Assembly Government could see that attempts at collaboration had been made over the issue. Councillor E W Williams reminded colleagues that advertising costs were high and that the interim appointment could be kept in post for a further 3 months or so.

The Chief Executive said discussions had been ongoing since January 2010 but Conwy CBC had little interest at that time in collaborating on Children's Services. As the national policy context became strongly supportive of collaboration they became positive and Denbighshire's recruitment process in March 2010 was stopped as the result. Meetings were held with Members and officers and there was commitment to proceed to a joint appointment. Denbighshire's Cabinet formally agreed in May to proceed with a joint appointment, however, Conwy's Cabinet did not discuss the matter until June and have agreed to have another report in September. He said the post of Head of Children's Services was critical and it was likely that there would have to be an increased salary level for the next advertisement. Collaboration with Conwy would continue to be important to Denbighshire and the Authority would wish to continue with the already established partnerships.

Members agreed to proceed with option 2.2 of the report.

RESOLVED that Denbighshire proceed to readvertise the Head of Children and Family Services post for Denbighshire only - but with a clear and explicit commitment to continue to co-work and align with Conwy Children's Services in areas which are priorities for both counties.

It was agreed to issue a joint press release with Conwy County Borough Council explaining why the merger will not proceed at this time and arrange face to face briefing for staff to explain Cabinet's decision and the continuing commitment to joint working.

RESOLVED that, subject to the above, the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

123 REVIEW OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PROVISION IN THE PRESTATYN AREA

(Councillors J Thompson Hill, S Frobisher and R W Hughes declared an interest in the item as school governors. The Head of Corporate Governance noted the declaration but said Councillors were given dispensation on such issues if they were Denbighshire appointees to school governing bodies.)

Councillor E W Williams presented the report seeking Cabinet approval to the commencement of formal consultation regarding the potential amalgamation of Bodnant Infants and Bodnant Junior schools into a 2 Form Entry (60 pupils per year group) all-through school on existing sites and approval to the commencement of formal consultation regarding the potential expansion of Ysgol Y Llys into a 2 Form Entry (60 pupils per year group) subject to capital funding. He thanked Mrs H Vernon and Mr O M Blythin for all their work.

Modernising education in the County was a priority for the Authority and Councillor Williams said this was being carried out on an area basis. People perceived outcomes to be negative. However, he thanked the Head of Modernising Education and her excellent team on their work at the start of these consultations. He said it was difficult to predict population growth accurately.

Councillor H H Evans, said as former Lead Member for Education, he wanted effective and open consultation with key stakeholders. The Authority wanted to provide the best education facilities for now and the future for Denbighshire's children. It was important to make the right decisions and the public expected confidence in the Authority's ability to provide better education and facilities for children. He said it was important that the other 2 primary schools in the area were not treated in isolation and that there was also a need for investment in the secondary school. The Head of Modernising Education informed Members that the proposed amalgamation would be subject to statutory notices and this was the first part. A bid had been made to the Welsh Assembly Government to merge to one site and manage expectations. A feasibility bid had also been made to the Assembly for Prestatyn High School. The other primary schools in the area would not be subject to statutory notices.

Councillor R W Hughes agreed with Councillor H H Evans the importance of keeping to the overall context of looking at an area. She was pleased that the concerns raised by some members of the public at the start of the process had been listened to.

The Head of Modernising Education confirmed to Councillor P J Marfleet that the consultation period of 2 months would tie in with the academic year. She informed Councillor Dobb that outcomes of the bids would be made available in July.

Councillor E W Williams said Councillor M M Jones had raised concerns with him on growing pupil numbers and he said consultation started with all options. However, people would perceive that decisions had been made but he said he had confidence in the Modernising Education team and they did not have preconceived ideas but broad proposals which could be challenged.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the commencement of formal consultation regarding the potential amalgamation of Bodnant Infants and Bodnant Junior schools into a 2 Form Entry (60 pupils per year group) all-through school on existing sites and approves the commencement of formal consultation regarding the potential expansion of Ysgol Y Llys into a 2 Form Entry (60 pupils per year group) subject to capital funding.

124 REVIEW OF PROGRESS WITH THE STRATEGIC REGENERATION AREA (SRA) AND FUTURE PROGRAMME

Councillor D A J Thomas presented the report for Cabinet to note progress made with the implementation of the North Wales Coast Strategic Regeneration Area (SRA) action plan in Denbighshire and to approve arrangements for the prioritisation of future projects for funding in light of possible budget reductions by WAG. He introduced Carol Evans, who was on secondment as Rhyl Going Forward Manager.

Three Lower Super Output Areas in Rhyl remain high in the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, Rhyl West 2 (1st), Rhyl West 1 (4th), Rhyl South West 2 (5th). There was a marked disparity between those areas and those in the rest of Denbighshire and Wales. Annex 1 to the report detailed the “domains” which make up the indices with their respective weightings.

In light of this disparity, in 2008 Leighton Andrews, former Deputy Minister for Regeneration designated the coastal strip from Rhos-on-Sea to Prestatyn as an area to receive substantial funding as an intervention to address the area’s problems and to achieve a vision for the area that it would become a thriving place to live and visit supporting a community which was balanced and economically active. In order to address all domains within the index 6 themes were contained within the SRA action plan. Those themes were detailed on Page 2 of the report.

Complementary to the SRA Action Plan 2 further reports had also been commissioned. Those reports were Turning the Tide – a report to better understand the future of the visitor economy in the County and which was reported to Environment Scrutiny Committee in April of the current year. The report identified four elements to sustain the current level of visitor economy and hopefully enable it to grow. Those elements were detailed on Page 3 of the report. The second report, West Rhyl Housing Regeneration Plan, was still at the draft stage. This report would represent the single most important initiative in West Rhyl to address what is perceived to be the root cause of the area’s problems i.e. the density of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and poorly converted properties into flats which exists. This report would be presented to Cabinet in September in the current year.

Also, the recently held Local Service Board workshop identified outcomes which dovetail with all the preceding initiatives. This demonstrated that all sectors understood the problems and are all striving for the same outcome – to reduce deprivation in Rhyl.

£4.2million of funding was spent in the SRA in Denbighshire in 2009/10, not all exclusively in Rhyl but predominantly so. Details of completed projects were provided at Annex 2 and 3 and they have contributed towards the gap between the number of Job Seekers Allowance claimants in Rhyl compared to the rest of Denbighshire reducing thus achieving the relevant target in the corporate plan.

Last year's projects therefore can be seen to have been successful, however funding this year would be tighter and WAG have stated that they are only willing to approve funding for the projects Denbighshire have deemed to be a priority and that will have a positive impact on the position of Rhyl in the index of deprivation. The projects which will achieve this will be those which:-

- (a) Dilute the concentration and supply of properties available for people on low incomes/benefits
- (b) Provide good quality infrastructure which would attract private investors and as a result create jobs
- (c) Raise skill levels so that residents can adequately fill the jobs created

To ensure the delivery of projects which would achieve this a scoring matrix included at Annex 4 had been developed and a procedure whereby projects initiated will be scored and prioritised. This would satisfy WAG's requirements and enable the Council to be certain that the projects important to it to achieve a lasting change in Rhyl were being progressed. Projects with approval in principle only were detailed in Annex 5 and further potential projects are detailed in Annex 6. Those projects would be subject to the new procedures and scoring assessment, with the potential that a degree of match funding may be required from DCC. This would demonstrate to WAG that the projects are important to the Council.

Councillor P J Marfleet queried whether the scoring methodology had been applied to possible future projects and if so, what timescales would apply. The Principal Regeneration Manager said the priorities were reflected by projects - as soon as the scoring matrix was approved, it would be used and the projects referred to the next available meetings of the Capital Strategy Group and then to Cabinet.

Referring to the Capital Strategy Group, Councillor P A Dobb asked whether some projects would require match funding and how would this affect other areas of the County and their projects. She thought Rhyl would always be at an advantage. She thanked the Principal Regeneration Manager for the clarity of the report but could not find anything to say poverty factors would be addressed – although housing was a priority, poverty was not just about housing it also pertained directly to health. The Principal Regeneration Manager said the ranking given was for projects in the SRA area and this did not undermine the Council's capital strategy prioritization process and the scoring had been approved in consultation with officers of the Governance and Efficiency Directorate, officers of Conwy Council and Assembly Government officials. The scoring matrix was to ensure that when applications were made to WAG, they met deprivation and poverty reductions and it was expected that most projects would be fully funded. Those which were not fully funded would be evaluated amongst other projects. The Principal Regeneration Manager said it was important to address the income deprivation and employment deprivation domains in the index and housing was only a low proportion of this at 5%. It was important to raise the quality of employment opportunities for people living in the area. Health had not been included as these were County Council projects and not from the whole public sector – the Assembly were in contact with the Health Trust on those issues.

Councillor H H Evans asked whether there was a corporate discussion on deprivation and the projects and whether Rhyl Town Council or Rhyl Local Members had been part of the process. The Principal Regeneration Manager confirmed that there had been no specific consultation with Rhyl Town Council but officers would be attending a meeting shortly to discuss the SRA and the statistics had been discussed at the Area Member Group.

It was suggested by Councillor R W Hughes that it would have been useful to have costings included for the projects and she was disappointed that the programme was unable to include more input from Members. More corporate discussion was required on how to move forward within the County, more information on Convergence was required and what opportunities were available for schemes and training and the development of job opportunities. Regarding skills, the Principal Regeneration Manager said he would be meeting with an officer from the DCELLs department of the Assembly Government to discuss this area of concern. Three of the projects listed had been approved for Convergence funding.

Responding to Councillor P J Marfleet's query on all the projects but one being located in Rhyl, the Principal Regeneration Manager said the Authority had been instructed to focus primarily on Rhyl but WAG would consider others which supported the visitor economy, whether in Prestatyn or elsewhere. Community projects which were outside Rhyl could also be considered. The Corporate Director: Environment said much of the funding available through the SRA was skewed towards capital funding and revenue funding required for schemes would have to come from other sources.

The closure of the post office in West Rhyl had had an adverse impact on the area and Councillor E W Williams said it was good to see funding being made available for both the Library and High School for major improvements. Support for the primary schools in the area was also imperative and he reminded colleagues that transient population figures were not included in pupil figures. He had lobbied Ann Jones AM on this issue.

The Chief Executive informed Members that he and the Corporate Executive Team had been around West Rhyl the previous day and he said the deprivation had previously been managed rather than solved. There appeared to be an enclave of deprivation. Structural changes were required and in many instances B & Bs were used for the transient population. The situation was unacceptable. A Strategy for West Rhyl was in the pipeline and there were many good things happening in Rhyl. It was not possible to maintain a deprived system and improvements would have to be achieved although funding was tight. Councillor P A Dobb said other areas of the County were tired of monies being spent in Rhyl, with very little in the way of improvements to the deprivation resulting. Councillor Thomas supported the Chief Executive's comments. He informed Members that the Rhyl Pact – the voluntary, business and education sectors was to be relaunched. Much work had been carried out over the past 14 months and he congratulated staff on their work.

RESOLVED that Cabinet note progress made with the implementation of the North Wales Coast Strategic Regeneration Area action plan in Denbighshire to date and approve the use by the Regeneration Improvement Board of the scoring methodology shown at Annex 4 attached to the report to assess and score potential County Council projects for submission to the Welsh Assembly Government in order to prioritise those which will make the greatest contribution to improving the position of wards which are currently ranked at the top of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation. All potential projects must adhere to the process identified in the report.

125 REVENUE BUDGET AND SUMMARY CAPITAL PLAN 2010-2011

Councillor J Thompson Hill presented the report for Cabinet to note the latest estimate of the likely outturn figures for the 2010/11 financial year as detailed in Appendix 1 attached to the report and the summary capital plan performance for 2010/11 as detailed in Appendices 2 and 3 attached to the report.

To date, an overall overspend of £509k was forecast, excluding the schools' delegated budget. Lifelong Learning were forecasting an overspend of £264k resulting mainly from pressure on the level of maternity leave within schools as other budgets were on target. Social Services and Housing were forecasting an in-year overspend of £147k mainly due to specialist placements in Children's Services and additional costs in Housing as a result of recent legislative changes. An overspend of £97k was being forecast in the Environment Directorate with major pressures on the large income budgets relating to building and development control and car parking. The Capital expenditure at the end of May was £2.1m for a Plan totalling £21.9m. The Authority's strategy in 2009-10 was to reduce its debt and investment balances as it was cheaper than borrowing but at this time the Council is taking out new long term loans of £10m to boost cash flow. A report on the contingency budget would be presented in July 2010.

Concern was expressed by Councillor P J Marfleet that Directorates were overspent at the start of the financial year. It was not acceptable to just give reasons for an overspend and specific actions were required to address the overspends. He suggested a further Recommendation be added to say the next report should contain the specific actions to address the overspends that Directorates should operate within budget.

The Corporate Director: Lifelong Learning said maternity costs should be put onto the schools' budgets and this would be discussed at the next meeting of the Schools' Budget Forum.

Responding to Councillor H H Evans' query on the contingency budget, Councillor J Thompson Hill said that the budget was allocated in 2 tranches, with part of the budget being held back for allocation later in the year. The process for this year was the same as for the previous year. Councillor Evans felt it was early to have Directorates bidding for contingency funding. He went on to query the need for a £10m long term loan. The Chief Financial Officer informed Members that money for capital purposes was borrowed at the most advantageous time and cash was required to spend on capital projects. The Council's borrowing was lower than the allowed level of borrowing and money was being borrowed now for cash and capital spend as it was more advantageous.

Councillor G M Kensler asked whether the pressures on specialist placements in Children's Services was higher than the previous year, stated the Authority should not depend on income from car parking to run services and that the reports produced were historic. Councillor H H Evans said it was important to get monies from outside the County where possible and that car parking costs would be considered as part of the budget. He said that it was not possible to accurately predict the number of specialist placements in Children's Services.

Members agreed to add to the Recommendations as suggested by Councillor Marfleet.

RESOLVED that Members note the initial revenue projections for 2010/11 as detailed in Appendix 1 attached to the report and note the summary Capital Plan performance figures for the 2010/11 financial year as detailed in Appendices 2 and 3 attached to the report. Members further agree that the report to be provided to the July 2010 Cabinet detail measures being taken by each Directorate to contain in year pressures.

At this juncture (11.45 a.m.) the meeting adjourned for 10 minutes to allow Members to participate in refreshments.

126 FINAL REVENUE ACCOUNTS 2009-2010

Councillor J Thompson Hill presented the report seeking consideration of the final revenue outturn position for 2009-2010 for recommendation to Full Council on 29.06.2010. Cabinet was also asked to recommend to Council the treatment of reserves as detailed in the report.

The Annual Statement of Accounts for 2009-2010 would be presented to Corporate Governance Committee on the afternoon of 29.06.2010.

The overall financial outturn position for 2009-2010 was an underspend against the approved budget which together with an increase in the yield from Council Tax strengthened the Council's financial position. The final position on service and corporate budgets was an underspend of £265k whilst the spending from the Schools' Delegated Budgets was £560k above the level of the overall LMS budgets. The outturn position for other services was largely in line with previous reports to Cabinet. The final level of Council Tax yield was £371k higher which was a benefit to the Council. Other savings had resulted in a total underspend of £2,725k which would allow the Council to consider providing funding to assist the process of delivering savings in services costs in future years. The Corporate Executive Team have reviewed the position and recommend that £2.2m of the £2.7m available be earmarked to fund a Delivering Savings Through Change process and this sum would be added to other existing funds to make a total provision of £3m. It was unlikely that any further sums would become available to support the process in future years as public spending cuts take effect. It was recommended that £225k be put into general balances to make a total of £6.3m.

Councillor Dobb said whilst Delivering Savings Through Change was an excellent idea, she hoped it would have enough of an impact. She suggested ICT was a stumbling block and asked whether any monies could be used for this and rather than creating another inter-directorate competitive bidding process, the money should be used for specific items to help collaboration. The Corporate Director: Governance and Efficiency said ICT could be supported in this way.

Referring to schools, Councillor P J Marfleet said many found it difficult to operate within their budgets and some were already heading for an overspend. He suggested the Corporate Director: Lifelong Learning inform schools that no funding would be available for overspends. The Corporate Director

said schools would have to take any overspends out of their own reserves and it was only a few schools who were in an overspend situation. Responding to Councillor H H Evans regarding SEN overspends, the Corporate Director said schools were currently working on SEN provision to reduce the pressure and no further monies would be requested for SEN. Councillor E W Williams said the Authority was now 5th in Wales in funding education and this needed to be promoted.

The Chief Executive said management of finances was particularly strong and it was prudently managed. He congratulated the Chief Financial Officer and his team on their work. He was pleased Members supported the invest to save bid – Delivering Savings Through Change – this would allow some projects to be achieved and deliver expected benefits. However, any bids would have to clearly show benefits.

RESOLVED that Cabinet recommend the final revenue outturn position for the year ended 31.03.2010 to Full Council. Cabinet also recommend the movements in reserves and the carrying forward of earmarked balances as detailed in paragraphs 4.8 and 4.12 of the report and its Appendix 2 to Full Council. Cabinet also support the resulting proposals over the management of the proposed 'Delivering Savings through Change' funding as detailed in paragraph 4.10 of the report.

127 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET & CAPITAL PLAN UPDATE REPORT 2009 / 2010

Councillor D A J Thomas presented the report for Members to note the final outturn of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Housing Capital Plan for 2009/10 and the forecast outturn for the HRA revenue and capital budgets for 2010/11. Members were asked to approve the second and third contracts awarded as part of the framework agreement established for the major housing improvement programme. Approval was also sought to allow the approval of further contracts under the framework agreement lots to be delegated to the portfolio holder for housing – the Lead Member for Regeneration and Tourism.

An in-year surplus of £521k was achieved which was £229k higher than originally forecast. The capital plan achieved expenditure at £4.041m was under the original forecast of £8.083m as the improvement contract had been re-tendered part way through the year. The major repairs grant of £2.4m would continue to be spent. Councillor Thomas informed Members that 2 Council house sales had also been achieved.

It was agreed that officers would provide Cabinet Members a list detailing where the housing refurbishments were to take place.

RESOLVED that Cabinet note the final revenue and capital position of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2009/10 and the latest position for 2010/11. Members give retrospective approval for Contracts 2 & 3 of the housing improvement programme and delegate the approval of future contracts under the framework agreement to the Lead Member for Regeneration & Tourism (the portfolio holder for Housing).

128 ROUTINE REPORT ON PERSONNEL

Councillor P J Marfleet presented the report for Members to note information on employee numbers, sickness absence and performance appraisal completion rates.

Members were reminded that the role of Personnel was to advise and support departments, not to manage staff numbers. It was important that Lead Members, the Corporate Executive Team and all managers took responsibility for action. He queried the increase in the number of staff compared to the previous year, and said that the Authority should have seen a reduction in the number of staff. Future reports should include departmental breakdowns of and reasons for any increases. Councillor Marfleet said sickness absence levels were a serious matter and should be considered in detail by middle management. Looking at teaching staff, the Monday and Friday absences appear to be most common amongst this group although the Lifelong Learning Directorate as a whole had a reduction in sickness absence. There were higher levels of female absences, this was mostly because working mothers are the first port of call when their child is ill and this could be an opportunity for Worksmart to be introduced to help in such circumstances.

Councillor Marfleet said that the private sector had half the level of sickness absence of Local Authorities and he suggested that this should be discussed at an all Wales Local Authority meeting. He suggested that consideration be given to staff not being paid for the first 2 days of sickness absence but this would need to be done in agreement with the other North Wales Authorities as a way of reducing absences. However, Denbighshire had experienced a large drop in sickness absence over the past year – there was a decrease of 1.54 days lost per employee which equated to 6000 days less absence. Long term absences had reduced and 26 staff had now left the Authority.

Completion rates for Appraisals was at 88.99% which was a slight improvement on the previous year. Appraisals also now needed to be more about outcomes. There were opportunities to improve and he urged Lead Members and the Corporate Executive Team to cascade the information to all managers.

Councillor H H Evans said it was difficult to know what should be done with all the information provided in the report and he suggested Cabinet required guidance on which issues to focus upon.

It was suggested by Councillor P A Dobb that the great improvements in lowering sickness absence in Social Services, particularly Adult Services and Cefndy Healthcare, should be commended and she asked that the Leader send a letter to the managers involved to thank them, encourage them and to also ask for any information on what worked for their area / department which could prove useful elsewhere. It was important to focus on the positives that have worked in the various departments. Councillor H H Evans agreed to write to the various staff as suggested.

Stress / Depression / Anxiety is the biggest cause of absence amongst male employees. Councillor E W Williams asked why this was figure was so high and whether appraisals covered such issues. The Personnel Officer said a stress survey had been carried out and 845 questionnaires had been returned to Occupational Health. The results of the survey would soon be available. Councillor D A J Thomas had welcomed the survey and he asked when would the training for Members become available on sickness absence as it would help them all better understand the issues. Councillor R W Hughes suggested Personnel speak to staff with 100% attendance record to get their feedback or views as they were a valuable resource to the Authority. Councillor G C Evans suggested that some staff were hiding behind 'Other' as a reason for absence and this should be given further consideration. The Personnel Officer said this was being considered, particularly in relation to schools but the section could not be removed as staff are not obliged to give a reason for their absence. However, return to work interviews should provide information on any problems.

The Chief Executive said that Cabinet had been thorough in their quest for information on sickness absence and he said this was now a corporate priority discussed at both the Corporate Executive Team and by the Senior Leadership Team. He agreed it was good for managers achieving improvements to provide information to help others. The County's figures as a whole were improving and Social Services and Housing in particular had significantly reduced their sickness absence rates and should be commended. However, there were still improvements to make – the absence with stress problem needed to be addressed and he felt staff could cope with any changes but were less able to cope with uncertainties.

RESOLVED that Members note the information in the report and agree the Councillor H H Evans send a letter to the managers who had achieved significant improvements in reducing sickness absences involved to thank them, encourage them and to also ask for any information on what worked for their area / department which could prove useful elsewhere.

129 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Councillor H H Evans presented the Cabinet Forward Work Programme.

Members noted that the Telecare Report & Business Case and the Community Capital Projects reports would now be presented to the 7 September Cabinet meeting.

Councillor S Frobisher informed Members the LDP report would be presented to Cabinet in October.

Members noted that the meeting to be held on 7 September 2010 was not likely to finish before 3.00 p.m.

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

130 ISSUES REFERRED TO CABINET BY THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

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

131 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.

132 SUPPORTING PEOPLE: GIFT SUPPORT CONTRACT AWARD

Councillor P A Dobb presented the report seeking Cabinet agreement to the extension of three Supporting People Contracts for the GIFT Project to 26.09.2010. Cabinet was further asked to agree the award of the new Supporting People Contract for the GIFT Project to Wallich Clifford Community (known as the Wallich) from 27.09.2010. The extension was necessary because of the delay in securing WAG ministerial approval for the changes to the GIFT project and the complexity of moving from one provider to another.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agree the extension of three Supporting People Contracts for the GIFT Project:

- (a) To extend the GIFT Floating Support Project Contract to 26.09.2010
- (b) To extend the Drugs & Alcohol x 2 GIFT Project Contract to 26.09.2010
- (c) To extend the GIFT Probation Service Floating Support Project Contract to 26.09.2010

Cabinet further agree the award of the new Supporting People Contract for the GIFT Project to the Wallich Clifford Community (known as the Wallich) from 27.09.2010.

133 CAPITAL PLAN

Councillor J Thompson Hill presented the report for Cabinet to note the latest position on the 2010/11 element of the Capital Plan.

Councillor Thompson Hill provided updates on various projects:

Rhyl High School: the lead construction partner had been appointed – Members were asked to note the overall estimated budget being £7m less than stated in the report.

Ysgol Glan Clwyd: a feasibility study would commence shortly and the balance of the funding from Rhyl High School which was unused would be allocated here.

Transitional Funding to 21st Century Schools: bids had been made to WAG for Secondary Education in Rhyl, Welsh Medium Education in North Denbighshire and Transforming Education in Prestatyn.

Royal International Pavilion, Llangollen: this had been completed on time and also within budget.

St Winifreds, Rhyl: to be demolished. Members suggested the site be considered for various uses by Planning Development.

Ruthin Extra Care Housing: 17 unit scheme to be developed along with a 4 unit stand alone extra care building.

Members were asked to note the decision on the Brickfields Pond Sustainability Living Centre feasibility study should not have been included in the report as the Corporate Executive Team (CET) had deferred their decision on the project. Councillor P A Dobb said when the project was reconsidered it was important to include any information on jobs to be created. The Corporate Director: Environment said the study if approved would include this information.

Community Capital Projects would be reported in September 2010.

RESOLVED that Cabinet note the latest position on the 2010/11 element of the Capital Plan.

The meeting concluded at 1.25 p.m.
