

CABINET

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday 24 May 2011 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; 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 W L Cowie; G C Evans; R L Feeley; T R Hughes; H LI Jones; G M Kensler; D Owens, D I Smith and C H Williams.

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive; Corporate Directors: Demographics, Wellbeing & Planning and Learning & Communities; Acting Head of Corporate Governance and the Acting Chief Financial Officer.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Following the welcome to members of the public to the Cabinet meeting by Councillor H H Evans, the Acting Head of Corporate Governance outlined the procedures for the meeting and said there was no statutory right for the public to speak at Cabinet meetings.

50 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

51 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests in any business identified to be considered at the meeting.

***RESOLVED** that Cabinet note there were no declaration of interests.*

52 URGENT MATTERS

There were no Urgent Matters.

53 MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING 26.04.2011

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 26 April 2011 were submitted.

Item 13 New Work Connections: Procurement of Mental Illness Element: Councillor P A Dobb said "were" in the second sentence of the second paragraph should be replaced with "are" in the both instances.

***RESOLVED** that, subject to the above, the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.*

54 EDEYRNION AREA REVIEW

Councillor H H Evans presented the report which detailed the outcome of the initial consultation on the review of primary school provision in the Edeyrnion area. He said the purpose of the report was to gain Cabinet agreement to commence the next stage of consultation for the Edeyrnion area. No decision would be made at the meeting on the future of schools and further consultation would be undertaken.

He referred Cabinet to section 3 of the report (on page 2 of 16) and said 4 proposals had been developed and these were detailed in the report. If Cabinet endorsed proposals 1 and 2, a formal 6 week consultation period from 7 June to 20 July would take place and this would involve consultation meetings with staff, school governors, parents and the wider community. Proposals 3 and 4 were recommendations which could only be taken forward by the school governors for the relevant schools and they would hold a public consultation before making any changes. The Authority would support the schools during the process being undertaken by the school governors.

Following discussions, Councillor Evans said he had decided to lead on the report as there was a difference of opinion between the Lead Member and the officers on one of the proposals.

It was always difficult for Councillors to make decisions which were sometimes unpopular or where some members of the public did not agree. Councillor Evans said Elected Members would respect the public's views, listen and make a judgement based on the findings of the consultation with clear evidence and advice from officers, taking into account external influences and the future impact on the provision of the service. He felt the process to date had been open and transparent and that the proposals put forward were well thought out. He felt it was imperative to put into context why the review was being held and the process so far had been open and transparent.

The proposals put forward were well thought out and Denbighshire, like many other Local Authorities, was trying to modernise and manage school places. The Cambridge Report, commissioned by the Authority, had instigated the current debate on surplus capacity and the curriculum on offer in small primary schools. The Welsh Government definition of a small school was one of 80-90 pupils – Denbighshire did not agree with this and if this was the case, all schools in the Edeyrnion area would close. Estyn had said in their inspection of 2007 that there was surplus capacity in rural schools and suggested the Authority should use the agreed framework for managing school places and the emerging area reviews to drive forward modernisation. The 21st Century Schools Programme had aims to improve the learning environment and make best use of resources and the Authority had to do this as any capital funding from the Welsh Government would be dependent upon how the Authority managed school places. Reference was made to the Thomas report which recommended that a national target of school surplus places was established at 10% across Wales and Local Authorities would be required to revisit their plans to rationalise the school estate, and it was clear therefore that status quo was not an option. When assessing funding proposals their impact on surplus places would probably be the criterion given most importance in assessing the bids by the Welsh Government.

Councillor Evans said he was a little apprehensive before starting the review as he felt it was important that officers and Members should be familiar with the Edeyrnion area, the logistics, culture, history and the potential and that the options put forward were ones of moving education forward in the area. It was clear however that there were clear conflicts between what was best for the community and what was best for education; what had been good in the past and what would be better in the future and the National agenda versus local expectations.

If Cabinet agreed to the proposals for formal consultation we should be looking for stability, sustainability and an improved provision for the Welsh language.

Councillor Evans said that the Edeyrnion area was a stronghold for the Welsh Language within Denbighshire and that the impact of any proposals on the Welsh Language should be carefully considered. Any proposals should improve Welsh education provision within the area to ensure that the Welsh Language continued to develop and prosper. Cabinet would have to be convinced that any proposals would improve the education provision in the Edeyrnion area.

Councillor Evans asked the Head of Modernising Education to respond to comments from the Edeyrnion Schools Alliance, which had been received outside the closing date. The Head of Modernising Education said the process had commenced in November 2010 and ended in March 2011. The Authority had to consider education provision for the area for the next 5 – 15 years. The report was asking for permission to move to the next stage of consultation, which would include discussing in detail the potential impact of the proposals on pupils and parents. The consultation would commence on 7 June and end 20 July 2011. Feedback from the consultation would be

reported to Cabinet and would include detail on the consultation responses. Cabinet would then be asked whether or not to proceed to statutory consultation. At that stage if only one objection was received, the Welsh Government would make the decision on the proposals, having ensured the Authority had followed an open and transparent process.

The Head of Modernising Education discussed the report by the Edeyrnion Schools Alliance (representing the 7 Chairs of Governors in the area) and referred to the fact that there had been some debate around pupil projections, surplus capacity and maintenance figures. She said the key principles in the report mirror things that were already being progressed in Denbighshire. The role of headteachers was changing and Authorities now had to delegate more of the funding to schools which in turn would mean more responsibility for headteachers. This could become a burden for some schools, especially smaller schools. The Authority was looking at building capacity in schools to deal with these added responsibilities which could include sharing a bursar across schools. Such issues would be progressed by the Schools' Budget Forum.

Schools' building maintenance could also be delegated to schools which would result in increased responsibility but would enable schools to use local contractors if they were on the approved contractor list.

However, the report presented by the Edeyrnion Schools Alliance would not address all the issues facing schools in the area. There would still be an issue of surplus places and headteacher recruitment which the Head of School Improvement and Inclusion would respond to. The condition of school buildings was important and it was not possible to fund all improvements, therefore rationalisation would be required.

The Head of School Improvement and Inclusion said the Authority was committed to providing high quality education with high quality leadership and management and teaching staff. The educational standards in the Edeyrnion area was good and positive and any proposals would have to deliver the same or better attainment. However retaining high quality educational provision, improving leadership and management, collaboration and sustaining school buildings was a challenge. She said that there were some key national drivers impacting on our schools, one of which was the statutory workload agreement which had to be adhered to and this would have a significant impact on staff, management of staff and also on how schools were organised.

Curriculum innovation was also a key driver, the Foundation Phase had resulted in a new way of teaching and learning which impacted on the facilities required in schools and the Key Stage 2 Skills Curriculum was also impacting on schools.

Headteacher recruitment was a national issue and although the NPQH (National Professional Qualification for Headship) had been reinstated this was still a major issue, particularly in Welsh Medium settings. Statistics had shown that over 50% of headteachers in Wales were over the age of 50, so the problem was only going to get worse. This could be evidenced locally by the fact that there were 3 acting headteachers in the Edeyrnion area. Increased delegation and autonomy for schools would mean more management and leadership and schools would be expected to work collaboratively on these issues.

The Authority faced certain key challenges – staff expertise, staff roles would need to be more diverse and pupils would have to have appropriate learning and social interaction. There were a range of positives, for example, working collaboratively would share staff expertise and learning with pupils of the same age would be improved. There would also be an improved work-life balance for teachers and enhanced development. Schools would share best practice and better decision making. The Authority had to provide the best education for pupils with an ability to secure wider benefits e.g. culture, sports, extra curricular activities and a shared sense of identity would result should the proposals be accepted.

The Head of Modernising Education outlined the 4 proposals. Proposal 1 was to open a new Welsh medium area school for Cynwyd and Llandrillo, with the closure of 2 schools and opening of 1 new school on the existing 2 sites. The Authority would seek capital funding to move the school to one site in the second phase. Federation was not considered the best model for this area, as an area school was educationally the best option. For the second phase, 21st Century Schools' Funding was being

sought and to improve the Authority's chances of being successful it was necessary to show that progress was being made to address surplus places, ensure the Welsh Language was a priority and deliver on other Welsh Government policies. The single school site was likely to be in Cynwyd as the majority of pupils came from that area and initial conversations had indicated planning permission would be granted to expand the current Ysgol Maes Hyfryd site but not the Ysgol Llandrillo site, as it was located in a flood zone.

The second proposal was to close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy currently with 16 pupils and transfer them to Ysgol Gwernant, Llangollen, subject to parental preference. There were problems with site access in winter at Glyndyfrdwy and the school currently had 70% surplus places. It cost £9200 to educate each pupil at the school. It was accepted that it was more expensive to educate a child in a rural rather than urban area; however, the average cost of education in the Edeyrnion area was only £4900 per pupil. The Authority would need to consider the issue of social deprivation in rural areas and look at what pre-school facilities were required by parents in the area. There was capacity in Ysgol Gwernant to take the pupils from Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy.

The third proposal was to federate Ysgol Betws GG and Ysgol Bro Elwern, Gwyddelwern. The federation of schools could currently only be taken forward by the governing bodies. Consideration was given to an area school and closing Gwyddelwern, however it would not be practical to have one site due to the location of, and transport links between the two communities which would result in unreasonable travel for children. It was also not possible to consider an area school with Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Carrog because of the language issue as Ysgol Betws GG and Ysgol Bro Elwern are Welsh Medium Schools. The Authority wished to remove the mobile classroom at Ysgol Betws GG.

Proposal 4 was to federate Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog. The federation of schools could currently only be taken forward by the governing bodies. Consideration had been given to an area school based in Corwen, which would see Ysgol Carrog with 41 pupils close. However this would limit parental choice in the area for those wishing to access English medium education and should Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy close, would result in a large area between Corwen and Llangollen with no schools.

If the proposals were approved, an education system would be provided which could be developed to ensure better standards, parental and linguistic choice. It would strengthen the Welsh Language and reduce surplus places by an estimated 111 pupils. It would be a more cost effective and efficient education system.

Councillor E W Williams said the report was not in his name as the Lead Member for Education as he disagreed with Proposal 1. He felt federating Llandrillo and Cynwyd schools was a better option for the community. He took the opportunity to advise the public that the education team in the Authority was well qualified and the Chief Executive had specialised in education. He accepted that the principles had to be put forward to the community and the detail of the proposals would be explained to the schools. He felt that the Welsh Government was forcing Local Authorities to change the way they worked and as a result Local Authorities had to change the way schools worked.

Councillor M M Jones said rural schools were special and the 7 schools in the review were excellent schools. She suggested Cabinet Members visit each school in the Edeyrnion area to see what the proposals would involve. As an ex headteacher, she said it was a challenge to teach in small schools with all the different ages, ability and language considerations. She felt large schools had much to learn from small schools and small schools could learn from large schools. She asked when would the decision on 21st Century Schools funding be made. The Head of Modernising Education said there was no assurance available on the level of capital that could become available for the Authority. There were benefits to the 2 phases of the proposal, there would be one headteacher and one governing body and it would take 3 years to plan which would give the 2 schools time to work closer before moving to one site. The Head of School Improvement and Inclusion said a shared headteacher in another area had been found to be a positive experience for the schools and the governors had requested the discussions be facilitated. It had led to many positives e.g. shared good practice, and professional development opportunities. Parents were also positive on the way it had worked. The schools' shared leadership had recently been inspected and had been commended by Estyn.

Councillor P J Marfleet said there was excess capacity in rural schools and this trend was unlikely to be reversed, this was happening nationally. He was pleased with the communications received from the public. He had been a governor of a small rural school of 16 pupils which had now closed but he assured colleagues that there was still a community in the area. The other positive was the pupils went to a Welsh medium school and the pupils were now bilingual. In 2005 the Authority had commenced Managing Schools Places, but this had not been well managed. This had led to Cambridge Education being asked to provide an education delivery strategy for Denbighshire. The broad outline had been approved but it was now time to discuss individual areas and schools and consult with all relevant parties on the proposals. There was a problem with the quality of structures and the fabric maintenance of schools. He assured the public present that the Authority would not underestimate the importance of the consultation and any concerns raised.

As a school governor, Councillor P A Dobb said a school in her Ward had recently been inspected by Estyn and she felt the inspections were getting more difficult. She asked whether any more changes were expected on Estyn inspections and if so, was there any indication of how would these affect headteachers and schools. The Head of School Improvement and Inclusion said Estyn had recently made key policy changes taking account of the school effectiveness framework. There were key requirements to be demonstrated i.e. numeracy and literacy, Welsh Language and ICT. If the Authority did not follow the curriculum delivery it would be financially penalised. The new Estyn framework focused on resource delivery and accountability. Account would have to be taken of these changes and this would also form part of the regional collaborative agenda.

Councillor D A J Thomas thanked the public for their e-mails. He assured the public that they would be consulted and if they had any suggestions they should forward them to the education team. However, if anyone felt they were not included as part of the consultation, they were asked to let the Authority know. He agreed with Councillor M M Jones that it was a good idea for Members to visit the area. He said ensuring that all pupils received a comprehensive education was vital. Councillor J Thompson Hill thanked both the education teams for their hard work to date and he also assured the public that the local viewpoint would be taken into account.

Councillor C H Williams said he originally moved from Manchester to Gwyddelwern during the 1940s and then went to live in Cynwyd. Some years later he became a Councillor and he said it was an honour to serve the area. He felt the area had battled with various issues over the years, for example the proposed closure of the public toilets and changes to the bus services. He felt the review would be the hardest battle of all. He was primarily concerned with Ysgol Llandrillo, could not support its closure and felt that 30 pupils was sufficient to keep the school as it currently was. He was also concerned about the other schools in the area. He suggested the schools at Llandrillo and Cynwyd could federate in the same way as Betws GG and Bro Elwern and Caer Drewyn and Carrog schools. He discussed the roads in the area and said the road from Llandrillo to Cynwyd was also narrow. He suggested Cabinet withdraw the first proposal and suggested that Cynwyd and Llandrillo schools also be federated.

The Corporate Director: Learning and Communities said it was important that the Authority suggest the best way forward for the area and the 4 proposals would work well for the area. However, relevant people would be able to respond to the consultation before the information was reported at Cabinet.

Councillor H LI Jones discussed the report and asked various questions, in particular how 2 Cabinet Members who represented schools under threat could represent and vote impartially on the proposal. He challenged the legal standing of the arrangement. He said the Authority appeared to be investing heavily in other areas of the County and he felt more investment should be made in the Edeyrnion area. He reminded colleagues that Councillor E W Williams as the Lead Member for Education was also not supportive of all the proposals. He referred to the possible £92203 net savings if the proposals were approved. He suggested the Edeyrnion Alliance needed more time to consider the proposals and formulate responses. He also asked for assurances that should the proposals be agreed that the Authority would not be looking to carry out another review in the area for at least 10 years.

Responding to Councillor Jones' question, the Acting Head of Corporate Governance said as long as Members had an open mind when considering proposals and would take account of arguments both

for and against any proposals, Ward Members could speak and vote on the proposals. Regarding Councillor Jones' comments on the investment in the north of the Authority, Councillor H H Evans said he was correct in his statements but the Authority wished to invest in schools in the Edeyrnion area and ensure stability so that parents and children were clear on the education to be provided. He wanted parity of education provision across the Authority and the Big Plan had highlighted issues and challenges which the Authority had to face. A level lifestyle was required for all areas of Denbighshire although the north of the County had a higher priority in many instances as funding streams were available for the deprived areas of the County.

The Head of Modernising Education said nearly £1m had been invested in Llangollen after an area review was carried out and that any savings made in education provision would be retained within education. The Edeyrnion area had been included in the 21st Century Schools bid. Revenue savings of £92k could fund approximately £1.5m of capital funding through prudential borrowing. The review programme had already covered the Prestatyn and Dee Valley areas and once the Edeyrnion Review was completed and any proposals implemented, there was no plan to return to the area in the near future. She assured Members that there was capacity in Ysgol y Gwernant should pupils from Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy be transferred. There were population increases within the County but these were mainly in the north and the population figures were decreasing in the south of the County. Impact on the communities involved would form part of the consultation if the report was agreed. Councillor Jones said names of 2 members of the public had been included in error on the website.

The Head of Modernising Education responding to Councillor Jones' comments on names on the websites, said the first was a Christian name and the second name an initial and surname and the comments had been made in a public forum and there were no addresses or contact details. The names had immediately been removed from the website. She felt there had been no breach of data protection but apologised to the two individuals involved. This had only happened because the Authority was committed to being as transparent as possible during this process.

Councillor D I Smith commented that he had received a good education at a rural primary school of 20 pupils and 4 staff and that school was now closed. He felt there was merit in the suggestion that Cynwyd and Llandrillo schools could be federated and he felt this should be considered as building a new school in Cynwyd was a financial burden on the Authority. Regarding Early Years provision, this should form part of the consultation. The Head of Modernising Education said federation had been considered for Cynwyd and Llandrillo and it could be further discussed during the consultation period, as would the Early Years provision. Councillor R L Feeley also suggested Proposal 1 be amended so that both the schools could be federated and this would be a cheaper option than building a new school. She congratulated the local Members on representing their communities to the highest standards. Councillor D Owens suggested the process of drawing down capital funding from the Welsh Government was flawed. He also felt that there were not many surplus places in Denbighshire and that instead of building a new school the money should be spent on improving current schools.

The Chief Executive thanked Members for articulating the concerns raised by the local community. He reminded colleagues there were 2 national challenges – the economic crisis was hitting all Local Authorities and demographics in the County had to be addressed. Jobs, opportunities and housing for the future would mean growth across the County. He urged Members not to have a divisive debate about where the budget was spent as it would be spent where it was most needed. Implementing policies was hard and it was likely any policy change would not please everyone. However, issues such as surplus places, leadership and quality of buildings had to be addressed. Options being put forward had to address these issues to ensure a sustainable future for the area. He assured the public an open debate on the Review.

Councillor H H Evans thanked the public for attending and said approval of the report meant moving the consultation to the next stage.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agrees:

Proposal 1 - To approve formal consultation on the proposed new Welsh Medium area school for Cynwyd and Llandrillo. Phase 1 would see the schools operate on the existing school sites in Cynwyd and Llandrillo. Phase 2, subject to securing capital funding, would see the school move to a single

school site in Cynwyd following expansion and refurbishment works while retaining some early years provision in Llandrillo as appropriate. Councillor E W Williams abstained from voting on the proposal.

Proposal 2 - To approve formal consultation on the proposed closure of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy with pupils transferring to Ysgol Y Gwernant, Llangollen subject to parental preference. Some early years provision would be retained in Glyndyfrdwy as appropriate.

*Proposal 3 – To recommend federation to the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Betws Gwerfyl Goch and Ysgol Bro Elwern, Gwyddelwern**

*Proposal 4 – To recommend federation to the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog**

** Proposals 3 & 4 can currently only be progressed by the Governing Bodies of each school. The authority believes that it would be in the best interests of all stakeholders for these proposals to be progressed by the governors with support from the local authority. The Welsh Assembly Government is currently in the process of providing local authorities with the power to create federations. Should the Governing Bodies decide not to progress the proposals the authority would then seek to use these new powers to create the federations.*

At this juncture (12.15 p.m.) the meeting adjourned for 10 minutes to allow Members to participate in refreshments.

55 FORYD HARBOUR WALKING AND CYCLING BRIDGE – BRIDGE SCHEME SECTION 106(3) HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

Councillor S Frobisher presented the report seeking formal Cabinet approval to the making of a scheme under Section 106(3) of the Highways Act 1980 and thereafter the submission of the scheme to the Welsh Government for confirmation, to authorise the Acting Head of Corporate Governance to take all necessary action to achieve confirmation of the above scheme and to obtain the above consent and approve the completion of an agreement with Conwy County Borough Council (“Conwy CBC”) pursuant to Section 8 of the Highways Act 1980 to enable Denbighshire County Council to submit the Bridge Scheme referred to above.

Councillor Frobisher said an Order from the Welsh Government was necessary to allow the Authority to cross a navigable water course (the River Clwyd at the Foryd Harbour) with the proposed Cycleway Bridge. Denbighshire and Conwy Councils had to have an agreement in place under section 8 of the Highways Act 1980, to define ownership and maintenance liability of the bridge, for the Section 106 Order to be successful. In this case Denbighshire had full ownership and maintenance liability so the agreement was straightforward. It was recommended that Cabinet approve the completion of an agreement with Conwy County Borough Council under Section 8 of the Highways Act 1980 to enable the section 106 order to be confirmed.

The Council needed to obtain the necessary consent without delay as any delay would jeopardise the project delivery timetable and the ability to complete by the target date of 31st March 2013, which was the date when the Welsh Government and Sustrans funding had to be drawn down.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- 1 *approve the making of a scheme under Section 106(3) of the Highways Act 1980 and thereafter the submission of the scheme to the Welsh Government for confirmation*
- 2 *authorise the Acting Head of Corporate Governance to take all necessary action to achieve confirmation of the scheme and to obtain the above consent as detailed in the report*
- 3 *approve the completion of an agreement with Conwy County Borough Council pursuant to Section 8 of the Highways Act 1980 to enable Denbighshire County Council to submit the Bridge Scheme referred to above.*

56 FINANCE REPORT

Councillor J Thompson Hill presented the report for Cabinet to note the latest financial position and progress against the agreed budget strategy. Members were also asked to note the Corporate Executive Team's decision to purchase 30 Abbey Street, Rhyl. The format of the report had changed and the information would be provided on a service basis. He would welcome any comments on the new structure.

The report covered the first month of the financial year and all services were projecting a balanced budget. The savings update showed that 57% of savings had already been achieved with the other 43% being progressed. The detailed capital plan would be reported on a quarterly basis.

The Corporate Executive Team had approved the purchase of 30 Abbey Street, Rhyl which formed part of a wider proposal to help regenerate Rhyl. The Authority was now awaiting a grant offer from the Welsh Government as this could not have been provided earlier as there was no Minister owing to the elections.

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) was forecast to be on budget.

Responding to queries from Councillor P J Marfleet, the Acting Chief Financial Officer said officers were working on the Medium Term Financial Plan. He confirmed that the figures in the report had been provided by the financial team and that the Senior Leadership Team would validate the figures in the report during the Service Challenge Reviews. Councillor H H Evans asked whether Services Challenge Reviews were linked to the report. The Acting Chief Financial Officer confirmed this was the case and if this was not the case the information would have to be brought back to the Review.

Councillor P A Dobb asked that the Acting Chief Financial Officer let Cabinet Members know when the funding for the purchase of 30 Abbey Street, Rhyl had been received from the Welsh Government. The Acting Chief Financial Officer agreed to provide the information when received and also confirmed that the Foryd Harbour report would not be presented to the next Cabinet meeting. Councillor Dobb asked that information in Appendix 1 include the date on future reports and asked whether there was sufficient information in the report on the HRA for the business plan. The Acting Chief Financial Officer agreed the date be included in the Appendix and that he would check what had previously been agreed at Cabinet and let Councillor Dobb know, with regard to the HRA business plan information.

The Acting Chief Financial Officer apologised to Councillor D A J Thomas and said he should have been consulted regarding the purchase of 30 Abbey Street, Rhyl. This was an oversight and he would ensure Councillor Thomas was consulted in future.

Responding to a query from Councillor S Frobisher on the Apollo Cinema, Rhyl, Councillor D A J Thomas said there had been a 3 week delay but this was nothing to do with the Authority and it had no financial or other implications for Denbighshire.

It was noted by Councillor R L Feeley that cemeteries was incorrectly spelt in Appendix 1. Responding to Councillor Feeley's queries on extra care, Councillor P A Dobb said there was an impact on extra care and reablement and new service provision in Prestatyn had saved monies on residential care. The closure of Llys Nant Residential Home had also allowed for savings.

Both Councillor H H Evans and Councillor P J Marfleet stressed that officers would have to provide the information as agreed and any changes to budgets would have to be reported with reasons given for any variations.

The Chief Executive confirmed that information in the status column in Appendix 2 was provided by the Section 151 Officer and not by the Service and the Acting Chief Financial Officer gave assurances that the figures were correct. Any changes in how targets would be achieved would have to be reported and tracked. It was critical that the budget was delivered and difficulties still had to be faced.

The Acting Chief Financial Officer said the Heads of Service met with senior accountants on a monthly basis, information was included in the Ledger which would show any deviations and he himself met with service accountants monthly and he was positive that the information was correct.

RESOLVED that Cabinet note the latest financial position and progress against the agreed budget strategy. Members also note the Corporate Executive Team's decision to purchase 30 Abbey Street, Rhyl.

57 ISSUES REFERRED TO CABINET BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There were no issues referred to Cabinet by Scrutiny Committees.

58 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Councillor H H Evans presented the Cabinet Forward Work Programme.

The Corporate Director: Demographics, Wellbeing & Planning said the Childrens' Services report would be presented to the July Cabinet whilst the Annual Council Reporting Framework would be reported to the October Cabinet.

Members briefly discussed the political process for the support services' collaboration and the Chief Executive confirmed any decision would be made by individual Cabinets as Regional Boards could not make decisions.

RESOLVED that Cabinet note the amended Forward Work Programme.

59 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 13 and 14 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

60 INTEGRATION OF PARKING SERVICES TEAMS: CONWY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL AND DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Councillor S Frobisher presented the report seeking Cabinet approval to proceed with merging Conwy County Borough Council's (CCBC) and Denbighshire County Council's (DCC) Parking Services teams as part of the Joint Head of Services Highways Collaboration between Conwy and Denbighshire.

The Joint Head of Service confirmed that there would be a transparent and fair process between the 2 Authorities to ensure an apportionment of savings and costs. The Acting Chief Financial Officer said the 2 finance teams were meeting, for example, to agree protocol for financial management, savings and one off costs.

The Joint Head of Service discussed the significant number of benefits, which included a greater resilience for the service by operating a larger team and improved efficiency for economies of scale. Cabinet in both Authorities had to agree the report before any consultation could be held with staff.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agree the Parking Services teams of Conwy County Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council be integrated as outlined within the report.

61 NEW WORK CONNECTIONS DENBIGHSHIRE: PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES TO HELP WOMEN INTO EDUCATION, TRAINING OR EMPLOYMENT

Councillor P A Dobb presented the report for Cabinet to appoint a company to deliver services to support women in Denbighshire with pursuing employment, education or training as part of the New Work Connections Project, funded by the Welsh European Funding Office Convergence Programme.

The New Work Connections project was for the provision of services for women who, for example had a disability, sensory impairment, who had experienced ongoing health problems, who were aged 50 and over, who had mental health needs or had endured traumatic experiences and who were in need of intensive support to move on to employment and young women who were not in education, employment or training. The company being recommended had been through a rigorous pre qualification questionnaire and tender process as well as interview and had demonstrated they had the expertise and capacity to deliver the service.

Councillor Dobb confirmed this would fit in with the Authority's Big Plan, e.g. education and skills, mental health etc. Results would be provided to the Local Service Board and the People and Places Board.

Both Councillor S Frobisher and Councillor D A J Thomas said the work carried out at the Centre was amazing and they suggested all Members visit to see the excellent works done there.

RESOLVED that Cabinet appoint the company named in the report to deliver the services to support women in Denbighshire with pursuing employment, education or training element of the New Work Connections Project.

The meeting concluded at 1.30 p.m.
