

## **COUNTY COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the County Council held in Council Chamber, County Hall, Ruthin LL15 1YN on Tuesday, 10 May 2016 at 10.00 am.

### **PRESENT**

Councillors Raymond Bartley, Brian Blakeley, Joan Butterfield, Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones, Bill Cowie, Ann Davies (Vice-Chair), Stuart Davies, Hugh Evans, Peter Evans, Bobby Feeley, Carys Guy, Huw Hilditch-Roberts, Martyn Holland, Rhys Hughes, Hugh Irving, Huw Jones, Pat Jones, Gwyneth Kensler (Chair), Jason McLellan, Barry Mellor, Win Mullen-James, Dewi Owens, Paul Penlington, Pete Prendergast, Arwel Roberts, Anton Sampson, Gareth Sandilands, David Smith, Bill Tasker, Julian Thompson-Hill, Joe Welch, Cefyn Williams, Cheryl Williams, Eryl Williams and Huw Williams

### **ALSO PRESENT**

Chief Executive (MM), Deputy Monitoring Officer (LJ), Programme Manager (JC), Head of Facilities, Finance & Housing (JG), Lead Officer, Community Housing (GD), Corporate Director: Communities (NS), Head of Business Improvement & Modernisation (AS), Democratic Services Manager (SP) and Committee Administrator (SLW)

Wales Audit Office representative – Gwilym Bury  
His Honour Judge Ian Trigger – Chair of Standards Committee

### **1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ian Armstrong, Meirick Davies, Colin Hughes, Alice Jones, Geraint Lloyd-Williams, Bob Murray, Merfyn Parry and Barbara Smith

### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Huw Hilditch-Roberts and Huw Williams declared a personal interest in Item 7 – Approval of Business Cases for Ruthin Town Schools Development and Ysgol Carreg Emlyn.

At this juncture, the retiring Chair, Councillor Gwyneth Kensler, offered congratulations to the members of staff who ran the elections in the previous week and stated how proud she was of the staff as everything ran extremely smoothly.

The retiring Chair also offered congratulations to Ann Jones, Darren Miller and Ken Skates.

### **3 APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR OF COUNTY COUNCIL**

The retiring Chair, Councillor Gwyneth Kensler, invited nominations for the appointment of Chair of County Council for 2016/2017. Councillor Martyn Holland

proposed Councillor Ann Davies to be elected Chair outlining the personal qualities and experience she would bring to the position.

Councillor Arwel Roberts seconded the proposal adding Councillor Davies would be an excellent Chair for the Council and was happy to support the nomination.

There being no further nominations, and following a vote by a show of hands, Councillor Ann Davies was unanimously elected to be Chair of the Council for the 2016/17 year.

The retiring Chair delivered a short speech during which she reflected upon her time as Chair and highlighted some of the events she had attended over the last twelve months.

She expressed her gratitude to the Plaid Group for their support and for helping to raise money towards her chosen Charities. Thanks were also extended to Ifor Williams Trailer and Alliance Leisure who had sponsored and supported her throughout her year as Chair.

The retiring Chair also thanked Councillor Ann Davies for her support during the past year. Thanks were extended to officers and staff for their support together with gratitude to her consort Gaynor Morgan Rees and especially her husband for supporting her throughout the year.

The retiring Chair presented cheques from money raised during her time as Chair to her chosen charities:

- (i) Dafydd Rhys Owen accepted the cheque for £2,500 on behalf of the Samaritans
- (ii) Diane Hesketh accepted the cheque for £2,500 on behalf of Autism Initiatives, and
- (iii) Gaynor Richards and Carys Gwyn accepted the cheque for £2,500 on behalf of Mudiad Meithrin in memory of the late Hywyn Williams.

The retiring Chair then proceeded to present gifts to her Chaplain, Reverend Wayne Roberts, the Member Support and Development Manager, and the Music Support Services Co-ordinator.

The retiring Chair wished the incoming Chair best wishes for the future and invested her with the Chair's Chain of Office, following which, she completed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The incoming Chair paid tribute to the work undertaken by the retiring Chair and presented her with the Past Chair's Badge and gift on behalf of the Council.

The incoming Chair named her daughter, Mrs Jane Hugo, as her consort.

The incoming Chair's Chaplain for the year was to be the Reverend Brian Hugh Jones and advised of her chosen charities as follows:

- St Kentigern Hospice in memory of the late Councillor Peter Owen, and
- Ty Gobaith Children's Hospice.

The incoming Chair announced that her Civic Service would take place on Sunday 3 June, 2016 at the Ebeneser Chapel, Rhuddlan.

At this juncture, the incoming Chair explained that the retiring Chair's consort had been unable to attend Annual Council due to prior commitments but a bouquet of flowers would be sent to her in gratitude of her support to the retiring Chair over the past twelve months.

#### **4 APPOINTMENT OF THE VICE-CHAIR OF COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Chair sought nominations for the appointment of Vice-Chair.

Councillor Joan Butterfield proposed that Councillor Win Mullen-James be elected Vice-Chair of the Council for the 2016/17 municipal year. She referred to Councillor Mullen-James' vast experience including serving as Mayor of Rhyl on two occasions.

Councillor Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones seconded the nomination.

There being no further nominations and following a vote by a show of hands, Councillor Win Mullen-James was unanimously elected Vice-Chair of the Council for the 2016/2017 municipal year.

The Chair invested Councillor Win Mullen-James with the Vice-Chair's Chain of Office, following which, she completed her Declaration of Acceptance of office.

The incoming Vice-Chair named her husband, Alan James, as her consort.

Group Leaders and Members paid tribute to the work of the retiring Chair over the previous 12 months and congratulated Councillors Ann Davies and Win Mullen-James upon being elected Chair and Vice-Chair respectively.

**At this juncture (10.55 a.m.) there was a break.**

**The meeting re-convened at 11.20 a.m.**

#### **5 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR**

No urgent matters.

At this juncture Councillor Gwyneth Kensler informed members of the recent passing away of ex Rhyl Councillor David Thomas. His funeral would be taking place on Thursday 12 May at 2 p.m. at St. Thomas' Church, Rhyl.

Also Councillor Kensler welcomed Councillor Brian Blakeley back to Council following his recent illness.

## **6 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 12 April 2016 were submitted.

***RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 April, 2016, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.*

## **7 APPROVAL OF BUSINESS CASES FOR RUTHIN TOWN SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT AND YSGOL CARREG EMLYN.**

The Lead Member for Education, Councillor Eryl Williams, introduced the report (previously circulated) to seek Members' approval of the Business Cases for Ruthin Town Schools Development and Ysgol Carreg Emlyn.

The report was to inform Council of the current position with regard to the Council's submission of the Outline / Final Business Case for the Ruthin Town Schools Development (Ysgol Penbarras and Rhos Street School) and the Business Justification Case for Ysgol Carreg Emlyn, Clocaenog to the Welsh Government.

The Welsh Government had previously approved the Strategic Outline Case (January 2016) for the three Ruthin Primary Projects.

The Council's Corporate Plan detailed the Council's ambition to deliver significant investment in the Council's School Building's portfolio between 2012-17. A significant element of this work would be the Band A projects for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme.

The Programme Manager presented a visual presentation of each of the schools which were now in the planning stage of development.

The costs arising from the Ruthin Town Schools Development project would be approximately £10.5million and the Ysgol Carreg Emlyn project would be approximately £4.9million. The final decision to engage for the construction stage would be made by Cabinet.

There had been extensive consultation with the relevant school community in the development of the projects to date. This had included neighbourhood consultation meetings to discuss the proposed plans for the new school buildings. There had also been engagement with the Ruthin Member Area Group on the progression of the project.

The Strategic Investment Group considered the Business Cases at its meeting on the 29 March 2016 and following extensive scrutiny, was supported for recommendation to Cabinet. Cabinet considered the Business Cases at its meeting on the 26 April and fully supported recommending approval to Council.

Discussion took place and the capacity of the schools was questioned and confirmation given that historic numbers in the areas had been considered and overall the model would work well.

It was also confirmed that the construction of the schools would take place in an environmentally friendly manner.

Various members expressed their support of these business cases and Councillor David Smith proposed, seconded by Councillor Bobby Feeley that the Council approve the recommendation as set out in the report.

***RESOLVED*** that Council approve the Business Cases for Ruthin Town Schools Development and Ysgol Carreg Emlyn.

## **8 BUSINESS CASE TO SUSPEND THE RIGHT TO BUY**

The Head of Facilities, Finance & Housing introduced the Business Case to Suspend the Right to Buy Report (previously circulated) for Members' approval to submit to the Welsh Government.

At Full Council on 26 January 2016, a Notice of Motion was approved to develop a Business Case to submit to the Welsh Government for approval to suspend the Right to Buy.

The Minister has the power to issue a directive to suspend the Right to Buy for Council tenants and the associated rights for Housing Association tenants, if it can be proved that the supply of homes for social rent is insufficient to meet demand.

In addition to proving the housing pressure condition, the Local Authority were required to outline plans to increase the housing stock during the period of the suspension.

Our Local Registered Social Landlord partners have confirmed support for the application and indicated they required the suspension to also apply to their stock subject to their formal consultation and governance approval process. This would be ratified before formal submission of the application to the Welsh Government.

The Council consulted with all tenants who currently had the right to buy. 75 responses were received. 55% of the responses received were in favour of the suspension.

The Denbighshire Tenants and Residents Federation (DTARF) had been consulted and confirmed their support for the proposal.

Neighbouring Councils Conwy and Flintshire confirmed support and Denbighshire Citizens Advice Bureau confirmed support for ending right to buy.

The Head of Facilities, Finance & Housing clarified to Members that the Business Case was about removing the rights of the tenants to buy. The Business Case would stem the sale of properties whilst the issue of demand could be dealt with.

Following the purchase of a council property, the owner had to live in the property for a minimum of three years before they could put the property on to the open market for sale.

As well as homes, homeless accommodation and shelters for those most in need would be required.

Councillor Cefyn Williams proposed the Business Case, seconded by Councillor Gwyneth Kensler.

**RESOLVED** that Members approve the report to be submitted to the Welsh Government with a request that the Minister approve the suspension of the Right to Buy in Denbighshire for a period of 5 years.

## **9 WELSH AUDIT OFFICE (WAO) ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT**

The Lead Member for Finance and Assets, Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill, introduced the Wales Audit Office (WAO) Annual Improvement Report (previously circulated) to inform Council of the WAO's conclusion and improvement proposals, and to secure Council endorsement of a response to the Report.

Under the Local Government Measure, the Wales Audit Officer annually reviewed the Council's progress towards meeting its objectives and its prospects for continuing to improve in the year ahead.

The representative from the WAO, Gwilym Bury, confirmed this would be the final Annual report in its current format. In the future there would be four shorter reports produced during the year as follows:

- (i) Financial resilience;
- (ii) Transformation arrangements;
- (iii) Governance arrangements and
- (iv) Corporate arrangements.

Overall, this had been a very positive report and no recommendations had been put forward, however, the report did highlight some areas of concern where it considered further work was required. These were as follows:-

- The arrangements around the safeguarding of vulnerable adults were not yet considered satisfactory by CSSIW. The regulator also reported concerns about the way the quality of Domiciliary Care was monitored. A number of steps had been taken to meet these concerns.
- Attendance at Scrutiny meetings had declined, as had the attendance of Scrutiny Members at Service Challenge meetings. The Council had taken steps to try to improve the situation.
- The Council should create a more formal approach to the use of alternative delivery models, so that value for money can be clearly identified. It also proposes that the Council should strengthen its approach to income

generation to improve consistency. The Council has already developed a number of successful alternative delivery models.

- Estyn's evaluation of school performance. Overall the evaluation was positive. Performance of Denbighshire had improved slightly last year but had dipped slightly compared to other Councils. The Lead Member for Education requested that funding be taken into account due to the fact that one Council in south Wales had received £4million whilst £800,000 funding had been granted to improve schools in the whole of North Wales.

Indepth discussion took place and the following issues were raised:

- In recent years there had been an increasing number of people with learning difficulties and often complex needs from outside the county and even Wales who had been placed with independent providers in Denbighshire. CSSIW found that there were a significant number of people in these services unlikely to be known to the Council, who may need at some point to access primary health and social care services, and the protection of the safeguarding processes operated by the Council. Further work would be needed by the Council (and partners) to assess and predict future need and resource in this respect, and to take account of the potential impact of any step-down from intensive support and into community-based settings within the county.
- Numbers of members attending Scrutiny meetings had been an issue but Denbighshire did have an effective Scrutiny and this was one of the reasons why Denbighshire were such a successful Local Authority.
- Delivery of Services – Denbighshire had managed to provide the same services as 5-6 years ago but with significantly less funding. Unfortunately this was not acknowledged within the report.
- Denbighshire are an ambitious Council. There were to be new schools across the county which would be of great advantage to pupils.
- Monitoring arrangements were in place which were part of the Local Authority's Protocol.

The Corporate Director: Communities clarified that the WAO Annual Improvement Report covered the financial year 14 months ago. A summary of improvements which had taken place since 2014/15 had been available for information. Processes had significantly improved and CSSIW had seen improvements take place at a speedy pace.

Denbighshire take very seriously, the out of county placements. There were protocols in place with both Welsh and English Local Authorities. She stated that there was always room for improvement and Denbighshire were working closely with the providers.

The Chief Executive expressed his gratitude to the WAO representative for a positive report. He confirmed that Denbighshire were responding to improve at every opportunity. Alternative service delivery had been mentioned but this would be driven by financial constraints which would be discussed within the budget process.

The Chief Executive stated he was committed to better outcomes and in his opinion, school results were not as good as they had been 2-3 years previously.

The Chief Executive thanked the WAO representative, Gwilym Bury and his colleagues for all their work as they had attended a number of meetings.

The Chair asked for a show of hands to accept the report. There was a unanimous acceptance of the report.

**RESOLVED** that subject to the above, the Council noted and accepted the Annual Improvement Report by the Welsh Audit Office.

**At this juncture (1.10 p.m.) there was a 50 minute lunch break.**

**The meeting re-convened at 2.00 p.m.**

At this juncture there was a change in the order of the Agenda due to Judge Ian Trigger, Chair of Standards Committee needing to leave the meeting shortly and needed to present the Standards Committee Annual Report.

## **10 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

His Honour Judge Ian Trigger, Chair of the Standards Committee, presented the Annual report (previously circulated).

Judge Trigger congratulated Councillors Ann Davies and Win Mullen-James on their appointment as Chair and Vice-Chair of Council respectively.

This was the second Annual Report of Standards Committee to Full Council and covered the calendar year January to December 2015 only. It had been agreed that the Chair of Standards Committee would present a report on an annual basis to Full Council to keep Members informed of trends, issues in respect of compliance with the Members Code of Conduct generally across the County and the work of the Committee in driving up standards of behaviour at County level and also at Town, City and Community level.

Standards Committee main role was to monitor adherence to the Members Code of Conduct. All Members were aware that their Code was founded (and should be read in conjunction with) the 7 Nolan Principles of Public Life but in Wales there were 10 principles which were set out within the report.

Standards Committee consists of 2 County Councillors, 1 Community Council Member and 4 Independent (co-opted) Members.

During 2015 2 Independent Members resigned, Margaret Medley and the Reverend Wayne Roberts. Judge Trigger stated that he would like to publically recognise the good work of these two Members. County Councillor Bill Cowie has recently resigned from the Standards Committee to be replaced by County Councillor



Meirick Lloyd Davies and Judge Trigger thanked Councillor Cowie for all his work on the Standards Committee during the past 4 years.

Judge Trigger expressed his gratitude to both the Monitoring Officer and the Deputy Monitoring Officer for their hard work for the Standards Committee and also arranging and carrying out essential training events.

**RESOLVED** that Members note the contents of the Standards Committee Annual Report.

## **11 ANNUAL DELIVERY DOCUMENT FOR THE CORPORATE PLAN**

Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill presented the report (previously circulated) for Members to approve the final draft version of the Corporate Plan Year 5 Delivery Document to enable it to be translated and published.

A Delivery Document was created for every year of the Corporate Plan. The purpose of the Delivery Document had been to outline some of the key projects that would be started and/or delivered during the financial year for each of the 7 priorities, with the intention of illustrating how the Corporate Plan affected the work that was to be carried out.

The activities highlighted with the Year 5 Delivery Document were designed to have a positive impact on the Corporate Priorities and community wellbeing.

Discussion took place and one issue which was raised was regarding the improvement of our roads and by the end of October 2016 a review would be taking place. The Lead Member for Public Realm confirmed that a restructure had taken place within Highways Department and for each area there would be a responsible person to deal with issues who would report to the Area Manager. Processes were being assessed for improvement.

Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill proposed, seconded by Councillor Hugh Evans that Members approve the final draft of the Delivery Document to enable it to be published.

**RESOLVED** that Members approve the Year 5 Delivery Document (2016-17) to enable it to be published.

## **12 CHANGES TO THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented the report (previously circulated) for Members to adopt the Code of Conduct which incorporated the changes required by the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct)(Wales)(Amendment) Order 2016.

The Minister for Public Services had signed the Order and Councils had been advised to adopt the changes required at their annual meetings and in any event no later than July 2016.

Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill proposed, seconded by Councillor Martyn Holland that Council adopt the Code of Conduct.

**RESOLVED** that Council adopts the Code of Conduct set out in Appendix 1 to the report which incorporates the changes required by the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct)(Wales)(Amendment) Order 2016.

### 13 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES 2015/2016

Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts presented the Scrutiny Committee's Annual Report on their activities during 2015/16 (previously circulated) for Members consideration.

To comply with Article 6.3.7 of the Council's Constitution, Scrutiny Committees must report annually to Full Council on their work, make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.

The Annual Report followed a similar format to that used in previous years. It gave an overview of how Scrutiny operated, the work Scrutiny had undertaken to support the delivery of the Council's seven corporate priorities as well as other work undertaken by Scrutiny Members and Task & Finish Groups. The Annual Report informs residents of Denbighshire how they could participate and contribute to the Scrutiny process.

In future, the key areas the Scrutiny Committees would be focussing on when setting their work programmes were:

- continue to monitor the delivery of the Corporate Plan
- continue to evaluate the impact of the "Cutting Our Cloth" budget cuts
- examine business cases for future delivery of adult social care services
- evaluate the impact of the "new" CCTV service in reducing crime
- examine issues relating to the West Rhyl Housing Improvement Project, and
- monitor the Council's work in embedding the sustainable development principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 into its day to day business.

Members congratulated the author of the Annual Report but requested in future a more concise version be produced which was agreed.

Councillor Anton Sampson proposed, seconded by Councillor Brian Blakeley that the Annual Report of the Scrutiny Committees for 2015/16 be noted.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (i) Members considered and noted the Annual Report of the Scrutiny Committees for 2015/16
- (ii) An Executive Summary of the report would be produced for ease of reference.

## **14 COUNTY COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Deputy Monitoring Officer introduced the Council's Forward Work Programme (previously circulated).

Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill stated that there would be changes to the Forward Work Programme as follows:

6 June 2016 – Council Briefing amended to:

- (i) Faith Education
- (ii) Presentation from the Chief Executive of the Board of Community Health Councils in Wales
- (iii) Budget Process for 2017/18

5 July 2016 – Council amended to:

- (i) New Model Constitution
- (ii) Annual Report of Corporate Governance Committee
- (iii) Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)
- (iv) Learning from Rotherham – Corporate Safeguarding Panel.

**RESOLVED** that subject to the above, the Council Forward Work Programme be approved and noted.

## **15 ANNUAL PAY POLICY REVIEW / SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM PAY REVIEW**

Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill introduced the Annual Pay Policy Review (previously circulated).

### Pay Policy

The Pay Policy had been reviewed for 2016/17 and the following amendments were shown highlighted within the Policy:

- (i) National Pay Awards
- (ii) Chief Officer Pay Award
- (iii) Payments on Termination, and
- (iv) Recovery of Exit Payments following Re-employment.

### SLT Payment

A politically balanced Remuneration Panel for Senior Leadership Pay had been set up to make the following recommendations to Full Council:

- (i) Recommendations on senior pay and reward issues to Council, ensuring consistency, transparency and accessibility
- (ii) Recommendations on the management of and structure of senior pay and reward, and grounds for pay progression

(iii) Determine the level of pay and any award of Performance Related Pay for the Chief Executive.

The last pay review of senior officer pay had been undertaken in March 2001 as part of the re-structuring of the senior officers within the Council. As at 2008/09 there were 25 senior officers within the structure.

Since then there had been a number of changes in the SLT structure with a much leaner senior leadership structure. The SLT structure as at 1 April 2016 had 12 senior officers.

The Council had experienced retention issues at this level with two key Heads of Service leaving the authority in the past 12 months.

There was a requirement to have independent advice on job evaluation for senior officers and it had been agreed by the Remuneration Panel that the Council commissioned the Hay Group to independently size, through job evaluation, senior officers roles based on a generic job description and a role profile which gave the specifics of the role.

For the Council, the SLT pay structure needed to:

- Be sufficient to attract, retain and motivate senior managers of the quality required to run the organisation successfully
- To provide a fair, consistent and transparent form of remuneration for Chief Officers.

Part of the process required the proposals to be considered by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRP) which had been established by the Welsh Government under the Local Authorities (Allowances for Members)(Wales) Regulations 2007 which was subsequently revoked by the Local Government Wales measure 2011 (the Measure). Later legislation included the Local Government (Democracy)(Wales) Act 2013 which made changes to the Measure to give the IRP powers to become involved in the salaries of the Heads of Paid Service.

In relation to Denbighshire, the IRP decision was to recommend a variation to the Council's proposal.

The Remuneration Panel for Denbighshire met to consider the recommendations made by the IRP.

Base on all the information, the Remuneration Panel unanimously determined, having given due consideration to the recommendations made by the IRP, to continue with their original proposals.

Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill proposed, seconded by Councillor Stuart Davies that Full Council agree to the recommendations within the Annual Pay Policy Review.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (i) Full Council agree the changes to the Pay Policy for 2016/17
- (ii) Full Council agree the recommendations of the Remuneration Panel on Senior Leadership Pay namely:
  - a. The Council agrees the rank order of the Senior Leadership Team
  - b. The Council adopts a new Pay Structure with incremental grades for the Senior Leadership Team.

## **URGENT MATTER**

At this juncture, Councillor Joan Butterfield requested approval from Council for the absence of Councillors Ian Armstrong and David Simmons until the end of July 2016.

It had been clarified that this was because if a Member did not attend a meeting within six months of their last attendance, they ceased to be a Member. Councillor Joan Butterfield requested approval of the absence so that the six month rule did not apply.

The recommendation was moved and seconded.

**RESOLVED** that Members unanimously agreed to the approval of absence of Councillors Ian Armstrong and David Simmons until the end of July 2016.

## **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that under Section 100A 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 it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

## **16 THE FUTURE OF WEBCASTING**

The Democratic Services Manager introduced the Future of Webcasting report (previously circulated).

The Council at its meeting on 23 February 2016, considered a Notice of Motion relating to the webcasting of meetings and resolved that a report on options and costings be considered by Full Council.

The Council utilised a £40,000 grant from the Welsh Government to commence the webcasting of Full Council and Planning Committee meetings in 2014. The grant was to enable the Council to webcast until 8 June 2016. A further grant from the Welsh Government to sustain webcasting would not be provided.

If the decision was made to continue webcasting, consideration would need to be given as to which Committees would be webcast.

The future arrangements for webcasting were being reviewed by the Modernisation Board to consider options and costs. The Modernisation Board was also reviewing options to allow the Council Chamber in County Hall, Ruthin to be used as a more

flexible space, and one suitable as a venue for Cabinet, Scrutiny and other “committee-type” meetings. Such meetings could then be easily webcast from the Chamber.

The consensus from both CET and the Modernisation Board had been that webcasting was a valuable service and expected of principal authorities.

Modernising the Council had been a corporate priority and the webcasting of meetings was viewed as an important means of providing modern digital access to the public into the Council’s proceedings.

Discussion took place and Members queried whether alternative venues could, in the future, provide webcasting of meetings.

Councillor Stuart Davies proposed, seconded by Councillor Barry Mellor to continue webcasting in its current format and for a Working Group to be set up to explore options to extend webcasting to all or additional Committee meetings.

***RESOLVED*** that Full Council approves the continuation of webcasting in its current format and coverage for the following twelve months, during which time a Working Group shall further consider and explore the options to extend webcasting to all or additional Committee meetings and to report such findings back to the Full Council.

**The Meeting concluded at 4.00 p.m.**