

## **PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee held in Conference Room 1b, County Hall, Ruthin on Wednesday, 5 December 2012 at 2.00 pm.

### **PRESENT**

Councillors Brian Blakeley (Chair), Meirick Davies, Alice Jones (Vice-Chair), Pat Jones, Margaret McCarroll, Dewi Owens and Merfyn Parry

### **ALSO PRESENT**

Councillor David Smith

Corporate Director: Customers (HW), Regional Project Manager (DE) and Democratic Services Officer (RH)

#### **1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Joan Butterfield, Ann Davies, Bill Tasker and Huw Williams

#### **2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

No interests were declared

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

No items were raised which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency pursuant to s.100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972

### **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

***RESOLVED** that under s.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 Paragraphs 13, 14 and 15 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.*

#### **4 SERVICE STRUCTURES: HIGHWAYS & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICE**

The Corporate Director: Customers introduced a confidential report, produced by the Regional Project Manager and circulated prior to the meeting, which set out the options available for collaboration in the delivery of highways services between Denbighshire County Council (DCC) and Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC).

Following the decisions of the Cabinets of both DCC and CCBC not to proceed with a fully integrated Highways and Infrastructure Service across both counties, the Committee were asked to consider a subsequent report outlining the options for

further internal and external collaboration prior to the report being submitted to the Council's Cabinet on 18th December.

After an in-depth scrutiny and detailed explanation of the proposed management structure options, and an assessment of their potential to reduce costs and improve services, the Committee agreed that it was appropriate to take a step back from full integration and agreed to support the development of the recommended management structure set out under Option 2b.

The Committee recognised that attempts to integrate Highways and Infrastructure services over the last 3 years had not realised the anticipated benefits and that it was necessary to take a step back from this level of collaboration in order to maximise the efficiency of the service, whilst continuing to maintain strong links and close communication with CCBC, without ruling out closer collaboration in the future should a strong business case justify this course.

***RESOLVED*** – *That the Committee supports the recommendation to Cabinet of the development of the model for collaboration in delivering Highways services outlined under Option 2b.*

The meeting concluded at 3:40pm.