
THE COUNCIL 20/10/11

Present: Councillor John Gwilym Jones (Chairman)
Councillor R Leonard Jones (Vice-chairman)

Councillors: Stephen Churchman, Endaf Cooke, Anwen Davies, E T Dogan, Dyfed Edwards, Elwyn Edwards, Huw Edwards, Trevor Edwards, T G Ellis, Alan Jones Evans, Alun Wyn Evans, Jean Forsyth, Keith Greenly-Jones, Gwen Griffith, Margaret Griffith, Selwyn Griffiths, Alwyn Gruffydd, Siân Gwenllïan, Christopher Hughes, Huw Price Hughes, Louise Hughes, O P Huws, Anne Lloyd Jones, Brian Jones, , Elin Walker Jones, Eric Merfyn Jones, John Wynn Jones, Linda Wyn Jones, Penri Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, P.G.Larsen, Dewi Llewelyn, Dilwyn Lloyd, June Marshall, Keith Marshall, J Wynn Meredith, Llinos Merks, Dafydd Meurig, Linda Morgan, Dewi Owen, W Roy Owen, W Tudor Owen, Arwel Pierce, Peter Read, Dafydd Roberts, E Caerwyn Roberts, Glyn Roberts, Ieuan Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Liz Saville Roberts, Siôn S. Roberts, W Gareth Roberts, Dyfrig Siencyn, Gareth Thomas, Ioan Thomas, Paul Thomas, Guto Rhys Tomos, Ann Williams, Gethin Glyn Williams, Gwilym Williams, J.W.Williams, Owain Williams, R H Wyn Williams, Mandy Williams-Davies and Robert J Wright.

Also present: Harry Thomas (Chief Executive), Dilwyn O. Williams, Dafydd Lewis and Iwan Trefor Jones (Corporate Directors), Dilys Phillips (Monitoring Officer/Head of Democracy and Legal Department), Dafydd Edwards (Head of Finance Department), Iwan Evans (Legal Services Manager), Arwel Ellis Jones (Senior Manager – Strategic Direction), Vera Jones (Senior Manager - Performance and Efficiency), Gareth James (Scrutiny Manager), Gwen Carrington (Head of Housing and Social Services Department), Dafydd Owen (Commissioning Manager), Glyn Tomos (Service Manager – Learning and Physical Disability), Aled Davies (Head of Regulatory Department), Nia Haf Davies (Planning Manager – Policy) and Eleri Parry (Committees Team Leader).

Apologies: Councillors Dylan Edwards, Seimon Glyn, Sylvia Humphreys, Charles Wyn Jones, Dyfrig Wynn Jones, Evie Morgan Jones and Trevor Roberts

1. PRAYER

The meeting was opened with a prayer from Councillor Huw Edwards.

2. MINUTES

The Chairman signed the minutes of the Council meeting held on 14 July 2011 as a true record.

3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

- (i) The following members declared a personal interest in the item "The Outcome of the Consultation on the future of Tan y Marian, Pwllheli and Pant yr Eithin, Harlech Residential Homes", due to the reasons noted:

- Councillor Linda Morgan as a family member worked in the Pant yr Eithin home.
- Councillor Linda Wyn Jones as one of the Pant yr Eithin residents attended day care at the Seren company and she was the company's Chief Executive.

The members were of the opinion that they were prejudicial interests, and they withdrew from the meeting during the discussions on those items.

- (ii) The following members declared a personal interest in the Notice of Motion regarding moving the main bus stop to Castle Square in Caernarfon due to the reasons noted:

- Councillors O P Huws and Ioan Thomas as they owned businesses on Castle Square;

The members were of the opinion that it was a prejudicial interest, and they withdrew from the meeting during the discussion on the item.

- (iii) Councillor Endaf Cooke declared a personal interest in the Notice of Motion regarding street furniture as he owned a business that had street furniture.

The member was of the opinion that it was a prejudicial interest, and he withdrew from the meeting during the discussion on the item.

- (iii) Councillor Endaf Cooke declared a personal interest in the Notice of Motion regarding moving the main bus stop to Castle Square in Caernarfon as he owned a business in the town.

The member was of the opinion that it was not a prejudicial interest and noted his intention to participate fully in the discussion on the item.

- (iv) Councillor E Caerwyn Roberts declared a personal interest in the item "The Outcome of the Consultation on the future of Tan y Marian, Pwllheli and Pant yr Eithin, Harlech Residential Homes" as he had a granddaughter with learning disabilities but who was not in care.

The member was of the opinion that it was not a prejudicial interest and he participated fully in the discussion on the item.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (i) In the member's absence, condolences were expressed to Councillor Charles Wyn Jones on the recent loss of his brother.
- (ii) Councillors Dr Elin Walker Jones, member for Glyder ward - Bangor, Mandy Williams-Davies, member for Diffwys and Maenofferen ward - Blaenau Ffestiniog and Gareth Thomas, member for Penrhyndeudraeth ward were welcome to their first meeting of this Council following their success at the recent elections.

- (iii) Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams was welcomed back to the Council following surgery, and also Councillor Gwen Griffith following a recent period of ill health.
- (iv) Geraint Lloyd Owen, Bontnewydd was congratulated on winning the Crown at the Wrexham National Eisteddfod, along with Rhys Iorwerth for winning the Chair.

Also, James Palmer from the Tywyn area was congratulated on winning the Military Cross for his bravery in Afghanistan.

In addition, the young people of the County were congratulated following the recent examinations and their teachers were thanked for their guidance and support.

Finally, the Council was congratulated for receiving the Corporate Health Standard gold award at a recent ceremony in Cardiff. It was noted that the award was run by the Welsh Government and it reflected the fact that the workforce's health and welfare matters underpinned the Council's entire work.

5 URGENT ITEM

The Chairman agreed, under Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972, to include the issue relating to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2011/12 as late information regarding bank credit ratings had been received on 14/10/11 and action was needed in order to ensure business continuity without compromising the Council's policies.

6 REFERENCE UP IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURAL RULE 21

- (a) It was reported that the appropriate number of members had given written notice that they wished to refer the following matter up.

Consultation on the future of Tan y Marian, Pwllheli and Pant yr Eithin, Harlech Residential Homes

- (b) It was reported that the Council Board at its meeting on 26 July 2011, had resolved as follows:-

RESOLVED

- (i) **That the current use of Pant yr Eithin, Harlech as a residential care provision is brought to an end and that all current residents of Pant yr Eithin, Harlech and Tan y Marian, Pwllheli continue to receive a service in an accommodation provision that is suitable and appropriate to their assessments of need;**
- (ii) **That there is a need to develop the Pant yr Eithin site as soon as possible;**
- (iii) **That the Care Scrutiny Committee members receive progress reports on the scheme in November 2011 and March 2012.**

- (c) Submitted – the report of the Head of Housing and Social Services Department on the outcome of the statutory consultation on the future of Tan y Marian, Pwllheli and Pant yr Eithin, Harlech Residential Homes.
- (ch) The background and context of the report were set out by the Portfolio Leader - Social Services, and details of the main considerations were provided, as well as the basis of the recommendations.

It was emphasised that there was agreement that the traditional model of residential care was not suitable for the future, and that the proposed innovative scheme was a part of the Council's vision for improving the quality of the provision and developing a service which was suitable and sustainable for the future.

It was explained that it was intended to establish a residential unit in Tan y Marian, and to bring the current use of Pant yr Eithin to a close, and to develop the site for affordable housing and dedicated facilities for people with disabilities. Details were provided of the current situation of the residents of both homes, the proposed arrangements for then and the vision for the future.

It was emphasised that Cymdeithas Tai Eryri had expressed a specific interest in collaborating with the Council on the development, and that the Council's Property Unit had confirmed that there was nothing to restrict the land from being available for the development.

It was reported that a number of members, officers, service users and their families had visited the new modern provision at Ellesmere Port recently. There was agreement that the provision was truly excellent and that there was a need to proceed with a similar provision here in Gwynedd, in order to ensure better provision for people with learning disabilities in the county.

- (d) Local members were given an opportunity to express their views on the scheme and the member for Harlech noted the following observations:-
- that there had been talk of closing the Pant yr Eithin home for many years, that the uncertainty was causing pain and anxiety to residents, families and staff and that there was a need to agree on a way forward without delay;
 - that there was extensive evidence that specialist units were needed for people with learning disabilities and that affordable housing was needed in Meirionnydd, and that the opportunity to work with Cymdeithas Tai Eryri to develop the scheme on the Pant yr Eithin site should not be missed;
 - that excellent provisions had been seen in Conwy and Ellesmere Port, and that there was a need to ensure a similar provision in Gwynedd in order to give people with learning disabilities the opportunity to integrate with the community and live more independently.

With the agreement of the proposer and the seconder, it was agreed to add the local member's following amendment to the original recommendations:-

- *That a working group consisting of Gwynedd Council and Cymdeithas Tai Eryri officers along with the portfolio members, the local member, the Chairman of the Care Scrutiny Committee and a representative of the service users be established without delay in order to agree on the timetable, specific milestones and the details of the development on the Pant yr Eithin site, and that a full report noting the details of the plan is to be submitted to the Care Scrutiny Committee within three months;*
- *To accept the principle that the Council proceeds to transfer the Pant yr Eithin site to Cymdeithas Tai Eryri;*
- *That officers make every effort to secure a home, in the Harlech area, for one resident who has lived in Pant yr Eithin for 28 years.*

(dd) The following matters were raised by the member for Pwllheli (South):-

- that the homes of vulnerable people were being considered and a number of them had lived in the homes for many years
- that care of the highest quality was being provided in both homes and that the staff were concerned about the future of the residents;
- that there was support to keep both homes open and that the outcome of the consultation had been ignored;
- that it was possible that one of the residents of Pant yr Eithin would have to move out of Gwynedd should the home close and that there would be no room for one of Tan y Marian's residents should the Pant yr Eithin residents be relocated there;
- that the units should be constructed before the Pant yr Eithin building was demolished. The working group was asked to consider this;
- that he was very disappointed that he had not been invited to visit the provision at Ellesmere Port with the other members;

(e) General observations were expressed by other members, namely:-

- grave concern regarding one resident at Tan y Marian, who was not in a position to live independently in the community;
- dissatisfaction that the outcome of the consultation had been ignored. It was noted that the Wales Audit Office had noted that the Council had a fundamental problem with the way in which it engaged with the public;
- concern that the residents with intensive needs who were unable to live independently would be moved further away from their families and that another resource was being lost from Meirionnydd;
- that service users and families who had visited the provision in Ellesmere Port were very supportive of having a similar provision in Gwynedd.

(f) It was noted that the Care Scrutiny Committee supported delaying the decision in order to allow Cymdeithas Tai Eryri more time to submit its plans and for the money to be confirmed. However, as the amendment was a way of ensuring that there would be no way of proceeding until all the arrangements were in place, many members of the committee noted that they were prepared to support the revised recommendations.

The Chairman of the Care Scrutiny Committee explained that he had seen excellent modern provisions and that he was fully supportive of the recommendations, in order to ensure better provision for people with learning disabilities.

- (ff) In response to the members' various observations, the Head of Social Services Department noted the following:-
- it would be difficult to erect the units before demolishing the Pant yr Eithin building as the proposed development was located in the centre of the site and it would be difficult to build around the existing building;
 - that they were in regular discussions with the residents and their families, and that it was intended to develop the service in a manner that would address the interests of peoples with learning disabilities, including finding a home, in the Harlech area, for the resident who had lived in Pant yr Eithin for 28 years;
 - that four of the other residents who would move to Pwllheli needed residential care and that they would not return to Harlech. It was explained that one of the four had intensive needs and that they were in the process of discussing the suitability of a local or regional placement for her;
 - that the scheme in Harlech was only the beginning and that it was intended to spread out across the County, and that it was intended to arrange for members to visit the type of provision that would be available;
 - that the plan had been in the pipeline for many years and that the delay had been a cause for concern and worry, and that she now hoped very much that the Council would reach a decision in order to facilitate the arrangements;
 - that the plans had to be considered in the longer term. She emphasised that many people in Gwynedd with learning disabilities lived with their parents, and that it was likely that they would need a place to live in the future, along with a number of young people who wished to live independently;
 - that discussions regarding jobs were in the pipeline between the Provider Service and the Human Resources Department, in order to plan for any new jobs. It was noted that there was a high demand for jobs in the care field in Meirionnydd.

In closing, the Portfolio Leader emphasised that traditional residential care was no longer suitable and that the Scheme ensured a better provision. He pressed on members to support the scheme in order to realise the vision and move on to ensure the best possible facilities for people with learning disabilities in Gwynedd.

The staff at Pant yr Eithin were thanked for their care and their commendable work throughout the years. It was noted that every effort would be made to utilise their experience and expertise in the future.

The local members and the Portfolio Leader – Social Services were thanked for their commitment and the officers thanked for their work in bringing the report before the Council.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the current use of Pant yr Eithin, Harlech as a residential care provision is brought to an end and that all current residents of Pant yr Eithin, Harlech and Tan y Marian, Pwllheli continue to receive a service in an accommodation provision that is suitable and appropriate to their assessments of need;**
- (ii) That officers proceed to follow a formal process with Cymdeithas Tai Eryri in order to draw up a Business Plan for developing the land in accordance with the information in Appendix E of the report of the Head of Housing and Social Services Department;**
- (iii) That a working group consisting of Gwynedd Council and Cymdeithas Tai Eryri officers along with the portfolio members, the local member, the Chairman of the Care Scrutiny Committee and a representative of the service users be established without delay in order to agree on the timetable, specific milestones and the details of the development on the Pant yr Eithin site, and that a full report noting the details of the plan is to be submitted to the Care Scrutiny Committee within three months;**
- (iv) To accept the principle that the Council proceeds to transfer the Pant yr Eithin site to Cymdeithas Tai Eryri;**
- (v) That officers make every effort to secure a home, in the Harlech area, for one of the residents who has lived in Pant yr Eithin for 28 years.**

7. THE COUNCIL'S POLITICAL BALANCE

Submitted – the report of the Head of Democracy and Legal Department on the allocation of seats and chairpersonships / vice-chairpersonships of committees as a result of a recent change in the Council's political balance.

- (a) The Leader set out the background and context of the report.

It was explained that the Council's political balance had changed as the Plaid Cymru Group had won recent by-elections in the Glyder, Bangor, Diffwys a Maenofferen, Blaenau Ffestiniog and Penrhyndeudraeth wards.

It was noted that the Plaid Cymru Group had, for the first time during this Council term, a majority of seats on the Council, and that the majority of seats on a committee must be allocated to the majority group. This meant that the Plaid Cymru Group were to gain 12 seats and that the other groups were to lose 12 seats.

The Leader explained that he had listened to the opinion of the members in his group, and the opinion of the Business Group. In order to continue to work inclusively and to retain experienced members in their posts until the May elections, in the interest of the people of Gwynedd, there was agreement that the changes should not be implemented.

- (b) Should members wish not to allocate seats on the basis of political balance, the Head of Democracy and Legal Department emphasised that the member would have to vote unanimously in favour of the proposal.
- (c) Also, it was explained that the changes to the Council's political balance had somewhat affected the chairpersonships and vice-chairpersonships of the main committees with the Plaid Cymru Group gaining one vice-chairpersonship. It was noted that the Vice-chairpersonship of the Meirionnydd Area Committee was vacant.

RESOLVED

- (i) **To note that the current Constitution of the Council is as follows:-**

Plaid Cymru	38
Independent	16
Llais Gwynedd	12
Liberal Democrats	4
Labour	4
Individual Member	1
- (ii) **Not to change the allocation of seats on the committees as noted in 2.5 – 2.8 of the report of the Head of Democracy and Legal Department and to leave the committee memberships as they are for the remainder of the current Council's term;**
- (iii) **(iii) To respect the decision of the Meirionnydd Area Committee to leave the Vice-chairpersonship of the committee vacant and not to allocate the vice-chairpersonship to the Plaid Cymru Group.**

8 DEMOCRATIC ARRANGEMENTS OF THE COUNCIL

Submitted – the report of the Head of Democracy and Legal Department on draft proposals to change to executive arrangements (i.e. a cabinet arrangement) from May 2012 onwards.

- (a) The Leader of the Council set out the background and context of the report, and explained that the working group, the Principal Scrutiny Committee and the Board had supported the Leader and Cabinet form, with the Leader selecting the Cabinet, in order to ensure transparent, accountable and efficient arrangements.
- (c) A member expressed considerable dissatisfaction as the new arrangements would empower a small number of members and would diminish the powers of the general member.

The Head of Democracy and Legal Department explained that the working group's work would continue in order to ensure that the new Council operated in a way that would provide the back bench members with a strong role and a further report addressing this element would be submitted to the Council in December.

- (ch) The member emphasised further that there was a culture of working together within the Council. He referred to the way in which the Council

had reached a consensus on contentious issues through dialogue and collaboration and that he was concerned that this would not be possible under the new arrangements.

- (ch) He noted his wish for the new Council to be inclusive and democratic for the sake of the residents of Gwynedd, and proposed an amendment that the membership of the new Cabinet should be based on political balance rather than having the Leader selecting the Cabinet.

The Head of Democracy and Legal Department explained that the amendment did not coincide with the legal requirements in terms of sending proposals to the Welsh Government.

- (d) Many members favoured a Cabinet based on political balance. However, there was agreement that it was a matter for the new Council to agree on its executive arrangements. There was also concern that binding the new Council could lead to delay in the Council's administration – should it wish to change the arrangements.

The Leader explained that the new Council had a key role in deciding how it would operate and that the door was open for it to do so.

- (dd) Some members were concerned that the Leader would choose members from his/her own group on the Cabinet, whilst others were confident that the Leader was wise enough to select the best members for the job.
- (e) A member of the Working Group noted that an arrangement where the Council appointed the Cabinet was ultimately the same as one where the Leader appointed the Cabinet, because it was in fact the Leader who nominated Cabinet members in those few councils where the Council appointed the Cabinet. He was of the opinion that an arrangement where the Leader made the appointments was more open and democratic.
- (f) In response to an enquiry, the Head of Department explained that the Panel which set members' salaries worked on the assumption that the Cabinet's work was full-time; however Cabinet members were not prohibited from holding other posts.

RESOLVED to adopt the following as a basis for draft proposals for the reasons noted in the report of the Head of Democracy and Legal Department:-

- (a) a Leader and Cabinet form of executive;**
- (b) a model whereby the Leader appoints the Cabinet;**
- (c) the changes outlined in paragraph 4.3 of the Head of Department's report for the optional functions;**
- (ch) the new arrangements to be implemented in May 2012 at the beginning of the new Council term with no transitional arrangements.**

Submitted – the report of the Head of Policy and Performance along with revised papers on the Council's achievement in 2010/11.

The Council Leader set out the background and context of the report.

It was explained that the report detailed the performance for the final year of the Three Year Plan and ensured that the Council was accountable to the residents of Gwynedd in terms of its performance and activities. It outlined what the Council had achieved against its plans and targets for 2010/11.

It was noted that the improvements had been achieved in a challenging financial context and that it was likely that the situation would continue for some time. Despite this, it was emphasised that it was important to continue to be ambitious and to seek to improve services for the County's residents.

The Senior Manager – Strategic Direction reported that the Board had decided that there was no need to give the Head of Strategic and Improvement Department permission to make editorial amendments to the document. As the Council papers had been printed before the Board had made its decision, corrections to the documents were circulated to the members at the start of the meeting.

RESOLVED to approve the document and the amended papers as a true and fair reflection of the Council's performance against its main improvements and indicators during 2010/11.

10 JOINT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – DELIVERY AGREEMENT

Submitted – the report of the Head of Regulatory Department notifying the Council of the Delivery Agreement for the preparation of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Joint Local Development Plan and asking the Council to adopt it in order to submit it for the Welsh Government's approval.

- (a) The Senior Leader - Environment set out the background and context of the report.
- (b) It was reported that Gwynedd Council and Isle of Anglesey County Council had begun the work of preparing a Joint Local Development Plan (JLDP) for the Anglesey and Gwynedd Local Planning Authority areas, and that a Delivery Agreement had to be prepared as the first step of the process.

It was explained that a working group of members and officers from Anglesey and Gwynedd Councils had been working on the Agreement and that the report provided details of the function of the Delivery Agreement and the process of preparing the Agreement along with the next steps in the process of drawing up the agreement.

- (c) A member noted that it was an extremely important field and that a seminar should be held for Council members in order to have a detailed discussion on the entire field.

The Head of Regulatory Department explained that the document before the Council outlined the process and the statutory steps that would be followed in order to put the Plan in place. The Council was assured that there would be opportunities in the future for each member to have an input in the contents of the Joint LDP in seminars and committees.

He further emphasised that the Isle of Anglesey County Council had already approved the Agreement. He explained that delaying a decision until the Council meeting to be held in December, in order to hold a seminar, would lead to failing to reach specific targets and a delay of some months before the Plan could be in place.

An amendment to delay the decision in order to hold a seminar for all Council members in order to hold a detailed discussion on the field failed. However, there was agreement that there was a need to arrange a seminar in due course to explain the new arrangements and to consider the contents of the Plan.

RESOLVED

- (i) To adopt the Delivery Plan to be submitted to the Welsh Government.**
- (ii) To delegate powers to the Head of Regulatory Department to make minor amendments to the Delivery Agreement, should they be required following receipt of the Welsh Government's comments.**

11 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11

Submitted – the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report to be approved by the Council.

It was reported that there was a need to report annually to the Council on the work of the scrutiny committees, and that the document expanded upon the main differences achieved by the work of the scrutiny committees and improvement working groups. Their other successes along with priorities for the coming year were also noted.

Members were invited to ask questions of the scrutiny committee chairs.

The chairs, vice-chairs, members and scrutiny officers were thanked for their valuable contribution to the field.

RESOLVED to accept the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report.

12 NOTICES OF MOTION

- (a) (i) In accordance with Procedural Rule 13, it was reported that a notice of motion had been submitted, along with a procedural motion, in accordance with Procedural Rule 13 (12), by Councillor Owain Williams,

requesting that the matter be discussed at the full Council without being referred to the relevant committee:-

“That Gwynedd Council takes action immediately to prevent charging businesses in the County’s towns for having street furniture in order to attract customers. In a time of economic decline when businesses are suffering, these fees are killing enterprise and suppressing investment.”

RESOLVED not to discuss the notice and to refer it for consideration at the next meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

- (b) In accordance with Procedural Rule 13, it was reported that a notice of motion had been submitted, along with a procedural motion, in accordance with Procedural Rule 13 (12), by Councillor Endaf Cooke, requesting that the matter be discussed at the full Council without being referred to committee:-

“Following a number of recent cases relating to seagulls creating a nuisance in some coastal towns, I call on this Council to take the necessary steps to deal with the problem, urgently.

As a public body, we should show clear and firm leadership to protect our residents and visitors from this ever increasing pest.”

RESOLVED not to discuss the notice and to refer it for consideration at the next meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

- (c) In accordance with Procedural Rule 13, it was reported that a notice of motion had been submitted, along with a procedural motion, in accordance with Procedural Rule 13 (12), by Councillor Christopher Hughes, requesting that the matter be discussed at the full Council without being referred to committee:-

“I propose that Gwynedd Council responds to the latest news, namely that businesses in the town of Caernarfon are suffering direly as a result of the economic recession; business is down almost 30 per cent. One way of ensuring improvement in the town centre would be to eradicate the current custom of allocating an area close to Victoria Dock as the main bus stop and to move it to Castle Square; therefore, I ask for a decision to be made on the issue soon in an attempt to save the town centre and the businesses.”

RESOLVED not to discuss the notice and to refer it for consideration at the next meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

- (iii) In accordance with Procedural Rule 15(1) the Chairman received a petition from Councillor Christopher Hughes which had been signed by approximately 100 individuals who had links with local businesses asking the Council to consider moving the main drop off and pick up site to Castle Square in Caernarfon.

13 URGENT ITEM - TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2011/12

Submitted – the report of the Head of Finance Department to ensure the continuation of the Council's day to day banking arrangements with Barclays Bank, should the bank's credit status fall from "A+" to "A" in the future.

- (a) The Head of Finance Department set out the background and context of the report.
- (b) It was reported that there were a number of financial establishments on the Council's authorised counterparty list that had recently been downgraded and that the Council would not be using them for any new investments until their credit statuses had improved to the appropriate level.

It was explained that Barclays Bank Plc was used for the Council's banking arrangement and currently Barclays' credit rating of "A+" was sufficient for it to be used as a counterparty for investments. However, the Council's treasury management consultants had recommended that the full Council should amend the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2011/12.

In response to general concern regarding the situation, the Head of Finance Department explained that the Audit Committee would address this on a regular basis.

RESOLVED in order to ensure that the day to day arrangements remain within the Strategy Statement's requirements, that should Barclays fall under the original criteria in future, to approve the following change to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2011/12:-

"As Barclays Bank Plc is the Council's bank, it will continue to be used for short term liquidity requirements (overnight and weekend investments) and business continuity arrangements should its credit rating fall under "A+" (or equivalent) in the future"

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm and concluded at 4.10 pm.

CHAIRMAN