

**22 October, 2014.**

**LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL**

**Minute Nos: 234 – 241**

At a Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 22 October, 2014 at 4.45 p.m.

**Present:**

**Cllrs.**

L. A. Beer	H. J. Evans
T. Bowen	M. L. Evans
M. V. Davies	R. E. Evans
T. Devichand	C. A. Rees
G. N. R. Edwards	A. J. Rogers

**234. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN PRO TEMPORE**

**RESOLVED** that Cllr. C. A. Rees be appointed Chairman pro tempore.

**235. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. L. J. Butler, S. M. Donoghue (Cllr. M. V. Davies deputising) A. G. Morgan and G. H. Wooldridge (Cllr. R. E. Evans deputising).

**236. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**237. SERVICE PLANS 2014/15**

Members considered the half yearly report on the Council's Service Plans for 2014/15 which reviewed the key objectives and targets of the wide ranging services provided for the following groups:-

- Administrative Services;
- Community Services;
- Recreation and Leisure Services; and
- Training Services.

**RESOLVED** that the Service Plans be accepted.

**22 October, 2014.**

**238. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES  
DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16**

Members were circulated with the Draft Annual Report 2015/16 received from the Chairman, Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. In accordance with the requirements of Section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, the Panel's draft annual report (which included proposals which would take effect for the financial year 2015/16) had now been published on its website.

Members' attention was drawn to section 10 of the report wherein it stated the payments to members of community and town councils. There were no changes to the previous determinations introduced on 1 April, 2014.

As part of the Panel's determinations for 2015/16, relevant authorities must make arrangements for the publication within the authority area of the remuneration received by its members and co-opted members. This information must be published and provided to the Panel no later than 30 September following the end of the year to which the payments relate. For community and town councils the following payment information to named members must be provided:

- Attendance allowance
- Financial loss allowance
- Payments for costs incurred in respect of telephone usage, broadband, etc
- Allowances made to a mayor/chair and deputy mayor/chair.

Following general discussion it was

**RESOLVED** that the draft annual report be noted.

**239. MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY  
(1) DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-2020**

Members were circulated with the Draft Strategic Plan 2015-2020 which set out seven strategic priorities which the Fire and Rescue Authority believed would continue to improve the way in which it delivered services over the next five years.

The seven strategic priorities would focus activities to ensure effective and efficient service delivery to communities. The seven priorities were:

- Collaboration
- Innovation
- Improving Services Delivery
- Empowering Staff
- Improving Assets and use of Resources
- Caring for the Environment
- Communication and Engagement

**22 October, 2014.**

Members having considered the Draft Strategic Plan were generally supportive of the seven key objectives identified. However, Members were surprised that no reference was made in the plan to the scrutiny and future governance of Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) (as prescribed in the Welsh Government White Paper – Reforming Local Government). The White Paper advocated the importance of governance and scrutiny in driving continuous improvement even where there was good performance. This applied to FRAs as much as it did to other public services. The Williams Commission report recommended a reconstitution of FRAs so as to hold Chief Fire Officers (CFOs) to account and strengthen the governance and scrutiny of strategic service and financial decisions. Each CFO would be given legal responsibilities for planning; managing and delivering an effective FRA service for the relevant area.

The White Paper specifically asked how might governance and scrutiny of strategic service and financial decisions of FRAs should be best secured? The fact that the Mid and West Wales FRA had not made provision for any potential service reform within its Strategic Plan was disappointing.

Indeed the recommendation to review the FRAs boundaries between Mid and West Wales and South Wales Fire and Rescue Authorities to reflect the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University health board boundary was left unaddressed in the Strategic Plan. Members felt the Strategic Plan needed to have sight of the forthcoming reform proposals.

Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk be authorised to respond highlighting Members' views and opinions to the Chief Fire Officer, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority.

## **(2) DRAFT ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2015-2016**

Members were circulated with the Draft Annual Improvement Plan 2015-2016.

During 2015-16 the Mid and West Wales FRA intended to deliver upon three key improvement objectives which it believed would improve safety whilst delivering excellent services which met the risks and needs of the communities.

The three key improvement objectives were:

- Improve service delivery and safety through use of new technology and fire and rescue techniques;
- Continue to support safer communities whilst managing reduced budgets;
- Further improve collaborative activities to reduce risks, costs and improve outcomes for communities.

Members highlighted a matter associated with the second objective - continue to support safer communities whilst managing reduced budgets. One of the planned actions referred to developing a trading arm to enable revenue generation. Members were interested to know how this was going to be achieved and what it meant for the service going forward.

**22 October, 2014.**

Members also enquired about a matter under the third objective - further improve our collaborative activities to reduce risks, costs and improve outcomes for our communities. One of the planned actions stated: in partnership with the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST) expand the FRAs delivery of medical response services. Members were keen to establish how this was going to be achieved with WAST and what it meant for both emergency services going forward.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk responds to the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority requesting further clarification in respect of the matters raised by Members.

**240. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT, 1960**

**RESOLVED** that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the following matter be considered in private and that the power of exclusion of the public under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960 be exercised.

**241. STAFFING MATTERS**

Members considered the report of the Deputy Clerk (Administration) informing of staffing matters.

**RESOLVED** that the report referenced 10:2014 be accepted.

.....

The meeting concluded at 5.45 p.m.

.....

The afore-mentioned Minutes were declared to be a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman presiding thereat and were, on 11 November, 2014, adopted by the Council.