

15 June, 2011.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 90 – 96

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, 15 June, 2011, at 4.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr. M. V. Davies (Vice Chairman (in the Chair))

Cllrs.

T. D. Bowen	S. N. Lewis
M. L. Davies	A. G. Morgan
H. J. Evans	B. C. M. Reynolds
T. Rh. Ifan	A. C. Thomas
G. H. Wooldridge	

90. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. D. J. Davies (Cllr. T. D. Bowen deputising), S. M. Donoghue and C. A. Rees.

**91. MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
- DRAFT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2012-2013**

Further to Minute 57, Members received correspondence and a questionnaire from the Chairman of the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority.

The Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority plan represented year three in delivering the improvements identified in its Strategic Plan 2010 – 2015. The focus for 2012-2013 was centred on working with children and young people, providing employees with skills to serve the community, working together and improving the way they managed their resources and information.

The five key area for improvements were:

- Managing Risk
- Managing People
- Working Together
- Managing Resources
- Managing Performance

Members having considered the Draft Annual Action Plan 2012-2013 were generally supportive of the five key objectives identified. However, they did not support the proposal to change the firefighters working times at Llanelli Fire Station.

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Members expressed concern over the potential increase in risk associated with the proposal and felt that a change to the rostering system might be detrimental to the health and safety of the fire crew and the general public and following discussion, it was

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

**92. CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S
PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING RENEWAL POLICY**

A consultation questionnaire was received from the Chairman, Housing Scrutiny Committee, Carmarthenshire County Council, in respect of reviewing Carmarthenshire County Council's Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy.

In 2006 Carmarthenshire County Council brought in its own system of financial help to improve private sector housing conditions. Given the limited resources that were available, the 'Renewal Policy' targeted financial help to people in greatest need, people on low incomes, disabled people and people living in areas where high levels of poor housing, poor health and poor economic conditions existed.

Members generally supported the renewal policy and following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to respond to the questionnaire highlighting Members' views and opinions to the Chairman, Housing and Scrutiny Committee, Carmarthenshire County Council.

93. PUBLIC EXPENDITURE CUTS

Members were circulated with a letter from Nia Griffith MP, regarding constituents that had contacted her about public expenditure cuts that had been made because of the reduction in central funding.

The two main concerns were:

- All non-essential services and expenditure was cut before frontline staff or services. Constituents were worried that there may still be too much expenditure on entertaining or receptions or other similar events;
- Cuts too often disproportionately affected the lower-paid worker (who were, in people's minds, more essential) while higher-paid management remained in place.

Members felt the letter was intended more for Carmarthenshire County Council but nevertheless discussed the points raised in so far as they related to this Council and it was

RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to send a letter of reply setting out Members' views and opinions on the positive community work provided by the Council.

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94. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT, 1960

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the following matters 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.

Cllr. H. J. Evans withdrew from the meeting prior to discussion of the following matter whereas Cllr. A. C. Thomas withdrew midway through the discussion.

95. HAND ARM VIBRATION SYNDROME (HAVS) MONITORING EQUIPMENT

Members considered the report of the Technical Services Officer, informing of the various monitoring equipment on offer to help control employee levels of exposure to Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS) in the workplace.

HAVS was an occupational disease that could affect workers who use vibrating hand held mechanical equipment. Workers could suffer damage to the circulatory system, nervous system, joints and tendons in their hands and arms where the use of equipment was not properly assessed and controlled. There was a legal duty on employers to reduce employee exposure to hand arm vibration to a level that was as low as was reasonably practicable and the purchasing of monitoring equipment would help the Council to meet its health and safety obligations.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the Reactec Havmeter monitoring system be purchased from Reactec Ltd, 5 Leamington Terrace, Edinburgh, Mid Lothian, EH10 4JW for £3398.50 plus VAT.

Cllr. S. N. Lewis withdrew from the meeting during discussion of the following matter.

96. STAFFING MATTERS

Members considered the report of the Clerk informing of staffing matters.

RESOLVED that the report be accepted.

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The meeting concluded at 6.05 p.m.

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The afore-mentioned Minutes were declared to be a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman presiding thereat and were, on 12 July, 2011, adopted by the Council.