

**15 July, 2009.**

**LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL**

**Minute Nos: 139 – 144**

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 July, 2009, at 4.45 p.m.

**Present:** Cllr. D. J. Davies (Vice-Chairman (in the Chair))

**Cllrs.**

T. D. Bowen	T. J. Jones
T. Devichand	M. J. Lewis
H. J. Evans	C. A. Rees
T. Rh. Ifan	A. C. Thomas

**139. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. S. M. Caiach, M. V. Davies (Cllr. M. J. Lewis deputising) and V. R. Thomas.

**140. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr. D. J. Davies declared an interest in Minute No. 141 as he was the Vice-Chairman of the Housing Scrutiny Committee, Carmarthenshire County Council.

**141. CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL -  
DRAFT HOUSING SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY  
CONSULTATION PERIOD 2 JULY-18 SEPTEMBER, 2009 –  
THE CARMARTHENSHIRE HOMES STANDARD –  
IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF OUR HOMES AND  
ENVIRONMENT AND PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE  
COMMUNITIES**

Cllr. D. J. Davies declared a personal interest in the following item as he was the Vice-Chairman of the Housing Scrutiny Committee, Carmarthenshire County Council.

Members were circulated with the above document received from the Principal Project Officer, Carmarthenshire Homes Standard, Carmarthenshire County Council, together with a consultation questionnaire.

During the lengthy discussion which ensued, the Clerk informed that the document did not directly mention Town and Community Councils and stated that local authorities had a role to play within such a programme.

**15 July, 2009.**

Reference was made to the above questionnaire as having been sent out to randomly selected Council tenants and to the fact that many housing estates had been refurbished, however, some tenants had not looked after their properties and valuable funding was being wasted. Mention was made of housing inspectors, together with some local ward members, inspecting properties every six months however, it was felt that some housing associations didn't always look after their properties which went against the policies of health and well being, and which therefore, had a 'knock-on' effect on people's conception of some areas. Arising out of this discussion, reference was made to the empty properties within the Maengwynne area of Llanelli.

Members felt that there was a need to aid sustainability by responding to climate change and to find ways to eradicate fuel poverty. Waste management was an important issue and reference was made to processes such as Anaerobic Digestion being introduced to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and fuel poverty. The introduction and development of more play schemes/facilities and allotment sites would promote health and wellbeing.

The document did not contain any direct reference to economic capital financial investment or resources nor to developing social networks through resident associations, etc.

As a key stakeholder, the Council wished to be involved in any pilot scheme proposed and it was particularly felt that not only County members, but also local members, of Town and Community Councils should be involved in key initiatives for specific housing estates. By utilising this Council's community halls for the promoting of consultation events, social networks could be developed in local communities.

A suggestion was made to promote private ownership schemes and to introduce financial incentives for same, which could lead to greater community pride and individual ownership of the task ahead; with tenants needing to fully co-operate and participate in the Carmarthenshire Homes Standard.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk forward Members' views and comments to the Principal Project Officer, Carmarthenshire Homes Standard, Carmarthenshire County Council.

**142. 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.

**143. WORK BASED LEARNING (WBL) CONTRACT  
1 AUGUST, 2009 – 31 JULY, 2010 ALLOCATION OFFER**

The above document was received from the Head of Lifelong Learning & Providers Division, Welsh Assembly Government, which formally offered a contract continuation to the Training Department for the 2009/10 contract year.

A spreadsheet produced by the Training Manager was also circulated and he informed of the need to begin making the necessary arrangements with immediate effect.

**15 July, 2009.**

Following discussion, during which Members welcomed the offer with pleasure and gave their full support to the Department, it was

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) the financial viability of the contract be confirmed;
- (2) delegated powers be authorised for the recruitment of additional staff and associated resources; and that
- (3) an open day, together with appropriate press releases, be organised to promote the work based programmes and private training provided by the Department.

**144. STAFFING MATTERS**

Members were circulated with the report of the Deputy Clerk (Administration) informing of staffing matters.

**RESOLVED** that the report of the Deputy Clerk (Administration) be received and adopted.

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The Meeting concluded at 5.45 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 8 September, 2009, adopted by the Council.