

16 June, 2010.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 95 – 99

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, 16 June, 2010, at 4.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr. T. D. Bowen (Vice-Chairman (in the Chair))

Cllrs.

S. M. Caiach	M. L. Evans
S. L. Davies	T. Rh. Ifan
T. Devichand	T. J. Jones
H. J. Evans	A. G. Morgan
A. C. Thomas	

95. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. D. J. Davies, M. V. Davies (Cllr. M. L. Evans deputising) and V. R. Thomas.

96. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

Cllr. S. M. Caiach entered the Meeting during discussion of the following item.

97. REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COUNTY OF CARMARTHENSHIRE

Further to Minute No. 42, Members were circulated with copy correspondence received from the Secretary, Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales (LGBCW); a copy letter received from the Chair, LGBCW, and details of electorates received from the Statutory Services Manager, Carmarthenshire County Council.

The copy correspondence received from the Secretary, LGBCW, informed that a review of the electoral arrangements for the County of Carmarthenshire was to take place with a view to considering and formulating proposals for future arrangements. Comments, observations and submissions were welcomed.

The copy letter received from Brian Gibbons, AM, Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, Welsh Assembly Government, to the Chair, LGBCW, stated that the ratio

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remained as the aim to be worked towards and not as a goal to be achieved in each case and in doing so, attention should be paid to local communities having their own identifiable representation even where the indicative figure of 1750 electors/councillor was not always achievable.

Details of the present electorate in each community and community ward, together with details of the electorates of the existing electoral divisions, were received from the Statutory Services Manager, Carmarthenshire County Council.

The Clerk informed that any changes were not going to affect this Council's electoral arrangements. However, Members might wish to put forward proposals for the County Electoral Divisions covering the Council's area once draft proposals were published at the second stage of the review process. The second stage would present a further opportunity for comments and representations to be made.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED to note the above correspondence and to await the second stage of the review process.

**98. MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
- ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2011-2012**

Members considered the above correspondence and a questionnaire received from the Chairman, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority.

During discussion, Members' views and observations were noted as follows:-

- (1) Members supported the aim of Value for Money and reference was made to the excellent services provided by the Fire and Rescue Authority in particular, the First Responder Units and their role in saving lives and dealing with emergencies such as localised flooding which had occurred in the Dafen and Pwll Wards.
- (2) In supporting the aim for Emergency Response, reference was made to the importance of community youth programmes and initiatives, e.g. the Phoenix course, as a combative measure to counteract the threat of verbal and physical abuse.
- (3) Members supported the aim for Community Wide Resilience.
- (4) Members supported the Sustainability and Environment Strategy however, it was felt that there was a need to have formal links with the County Council's planning and building regulations' departments in order to influence the design of new buildings with a view to reducing the risk of fire.
- (5) The aim of Partnership Working was supported, with reference being made to the existing excellent partnership working arrangements. The training provided by the Fire and Rescue Authority to County Council Social Services' employees under the Teleservice initiative, whereby staff demonstrated how to correctly fit smoke detectors, was of particular note.

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RESOLVED that the consultation questionnaire identifying Members' views and observations be forwarded to the Strategic Planning and Performance Department, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

99. MODEL CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS POLICY FOR PUBLIC SERVICE PROVIDERS IN WALES

The above Consultation Document was received from the Ombudsman and Chair, Complaints Wales Group, regarding a proposal to introduce a common complaints system for public service providers in Wales.

During the ensuing discussion, Members supported the principle of introducing such a system as it would standardise the way complaints were handled. However, it was believed that the system would for the most part, be geared towards main public service providers; Town and Community Councils were not classed as main public service providers. Many local councils did not provide services and employed Clerks on a part-time basis therefore, the proposed system might not be appropriate or practical for said councils to apply or implement as they would not have the capacity to manage the system effectively, particularly if a blanket approach to the scheme's introduction across the local council sector was intended. For the vast majority of the Town and Community Councils in Wales, the system might be considered too detailed and therefore, inappropriate.

RESOLVED that the consultation document be supported in principle and that Members' views be forwarded to the Complaints Wales Group, Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

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The Meeting concluded at 5.10 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 13 July, 2010, adopted by the Council.