

17 June, 2009.

**LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL**

**Minute Nos: 105 – 112**

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, 17 June, 2009, at 4.45 p.m.

**Present:** Cllr. V. R. Thomas (Chairman)

**Cllrs.**

T. D. Bowen	T. Devichand
D. J. Davies	M. L. Evans
M. V. Davies	T. Rh. Ifan
S. L. Davies	A. C. Thomas
G. H. Wooldridge	

**105. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. H. J. Evans (Cllr. S. L. Davies deputising), T. J. Jones and C. A. Rees (Cllr. M. L. Evans deputising).

**106. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Members declared an interest in the under-mentioned matters:-

<i>Minute No.</i>	<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Interest</i>
107	D. J. Davies	Member, Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority
110	T. Devichand	Member, Community Health Council

**107. MID & WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY –**  
**(1) STRATEGIC PLAN 2010/2015**  
**(2) DRAFT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2010/2011**

Cllr. D. J. Davies declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item as he was a member of the Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority and withdrew from the meeting before discussion commenced.

Members were circulated with the above documents, together with a questionnaire, received from the Chairman, Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority.

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Members having welcomed the Strategic Plan 2010/2015, referred to the fact that they valued the services provided by the Authority and were supportive of the excellent on-going work provided by local fire station crews. Support was given to the aims and objectives outlined in the Plan, but it was felt that the inclusion of more facts and figures would have been helpful in order to assess overall performance against objectives. Whilst the Council recognised that the Strategic Plan set out the overall vision of the Fire and Rescue Authority and provided a general framework for the production of annual action plans, Members felt that the inclusion of key targets and performance indicators would have provided a benchmark for assessing on-going performance over the life of the Plan.

The Authority's stance on the measures proposed under 'Sustainable Development and the Environment' was welcomed, however reference was made as to whether the Authority had plans for formal accreditation of its endeavours by applying for ISO: 14,000 – the environmental and management standard.

Members having considered the Draft Annual Action Plan 2010/2011 were supportive of the six key objectives identified. However, reference was again made to the lack of performance targets being incorporated within the plan. The suggestion was made that closer links be established with local authority building control departments (if they did not already exist) to advise on the installation and location of smoke detectors in new build properties/and or home extensions in respect of 'Delivering home fire safety checks', as this would serve as an additional control measure in the prevention and reduction of fire risk.

Members wished to develop and maintain a relationship with the Fire and Rescue Authority and felt it appropriate to request that a representative of the Authority attend a future Council meeting to address Members in greater detail on the programme of work planned over the next five years.

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) the Clerk forward Members' views and comments to the Chief Fire Officer, Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority;
- (2) an invitation, requesting a representative of the Authority to attend a future Council meeting to address Members, be made and that
- (3) Members to submit questions to be posed in advance of said meeting.

Cllr. Davies returned to the meeting.

## **108. ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT (WALES) REGULATIONS 2005**

A consultation document was received from the Head of Local Government Finance, Welsh Assembly Government, in respect of making an amendment to the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2005. The changes proposed were to take account of the number of developments that had occurred in the recent past, mainly concerning financial and governance reporting.

The first consultation areas for consideration dealt with the signing off and approval of accounts; the Audit Opinion ('True and Fair' view); the Statement of Internal Control and remuneration reporting for senior staff.

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The second dealt with matters solely regarding Community and Town Councils, in particular related to earlier closing of statutory accounts; definition of 'proper practices' and the thresholds limits at which particular accounting regimes needed to be applied.

**RESOLVED** that the Deputy Clerk (Administration) respond to the document as appropriate.

**109. POST OFFICE, PONTHENRI –  
RE-OPENING OF BRANCH**

Members were circulated with a letter received from the Field Change Advisor, Post Office Ltd., regarding the proposed introduction of a Hosted Outreach service which would operate from Ponthenri Welfare Hall. The service would be provided for nine hours each week on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, and would offer the same wide range of Post Office products and services.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

**110. COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCILS IN WALES –  
PROPOSALS ON THE FUTURE**

Cllr. T. Devichand declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item as she was a member of the Community Health Council and withdrew from the meeting before discussion commenced.

Further to Minute No. 568 (22 April, 2009), a consultation outcome report was received from the Department of Health and Social Services Patient Experience Team, Welsh Assembly Government.

Following discussion, during which Members noted that the basic mechanism was not being changed and with reference being made to the fact that there was a need to share resources, it was

**RESOLVED** that the consultation outcome report be noted.

Cllr. Devichand returned to the meeting.

**111. 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.

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**112. 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 14 July, 2009, adopted by the Council.