

17 December, 2014.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 324 – 333

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 December, 2014 at 4.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr. S. M. Donoghue (Chairman)

Cllrs.

L. A. Beer	H. J. Evans
T. Bowen	M. L. Evans
L. J. Butler	R. E. Evans
S. M. Caiach	C. A. Rees
S. L. Davies	A. J. Rogers

324. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. T. Devichand (Cllr. S. L. Davies deputising), A. G. Morgan, and G. H. Wooldridge (Cllr. R. E. Evans deputising).

325. 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>
326	Cllr. T. Bowen	Personal and prejudicial – she was involved in her capacity as a County Councillor.
326	Cllr. S. M. Caiach	Personal and prejudicial – she was involved in her capacity as a County Councillor.
326	Cllr. S. L. Davies	Personal and prejudicial – she was involved in her capacity as a County Councillor.

**326. FORWARD FINANCIAL PLAN
2015/18 BUDGET CONSULTATION**

Cllrs. T. Bowen, S. M. Caiach and S. L. Davies declared personal and prejudicial interests in the following matter as they were involved in their capacity as County Councillors and left the meeting before discussion commenced.

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Members considered a consultation document received from the Head of Financial Services, Carmarthenshire County Council informing that the Authority must find and deliver £44 million of savings over the next three years.

The County Council had to make difficult decisions but must act in a fair and responsible manner by understanding the acceptability of the proposals under consideration and the likely impact on individuals/communities so that it was best placed to mitigate any effects.

The County Council was encouraging individuals and businesses to respond to the consultation document by completing the attached questionnaire in order for the County Council to have a greater understanding of the likely impact on people in the community.

Following detailed discussion, whereby Members confirmed their responses to all of the efficiency savings earmarked in the questionnaire it was

RESOLVED that Members' views and opinions on the proposed efficiency savings be forwarded to Carmarthenshire County Council.

**327. DYFED POWYS POLICE
 COUNCIL TAX POLICING PRECEPT**

Members considered correspondence from the Police and Crime Commissioner, Dyfed Powys Police requesting feedback on the element of the Council Tax that helps pay for Dyfed Powys Police through the Police Precept. The Commissioner was keen to garner what the community was content to pay in 2015/16.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the Clerk completes the survey on behalf of Members indicating:

- In the Council's opinion the community paid about the right price for the Police.
- In 2015/16 spending priorities should focus on retaining Police stations.
- That existing money in police funds should be used to keep this year's Police Precept rise as low as possible.

328. QUALIFICATIONS WALES BILL

Members received a consultation document from The Children, Young People and Education Committee, National Assembly for Wales asking for evidence on the general principles of the Qualifications Wales Bill.

The Bill had been brought forward following a recommendation made by the Independent Review of Qualifications for 14 to 19 year olds in Wales. The Bill was intended to address the four main limitations of the current system. These were outlined in the Explanatory Memorandum as follows:

- There was no single organisation that was dedicated to ensuring the effectiveness of qualifications and the qualification system;

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- There were no powers to prioritise qualifications and to thereby focus regulatory activity where it was most needed – with the result that there were a large number of regulated qualifications but limited resources to ensure effectiveness;
- There were no powers to select a single provider of a given qualification to ensure that learners across Wales take the same qualification; and
- The capacity to drive forward the strategic development of qualifications within the current arrangements was too limited – creating a risk that Wales’ qualifications would not be held in as high esteem, nationally and internationally, as those in other nations.

The Deputy Clerk (Training) led Members through the attached consultation questions providing her advice and opinion where appropriate. She expressed concern that as a training provider in Wales, LRC Training had not been consulted over the Bill and following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the Deputy Clerk (Training) be authorised to complete the accompanying consultation questions articulating Members’ views and observations but also that the matter be raised with other training providers and organisations to ascertain their stance over the consultation process and the value of introducing the Bill.

**329. MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN
DRAFT ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Further to Minute No. 239, Members received a letter from the Deputy Chief Officer, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service in response to the Clerk’s letter dated 14 November, 2014.

Following a discussion, whereby Members raised a number of supplementary questions, it was felt that it would be more beneficial if the Deputy Chief Officer attended a future Council meeting to discuss the points originally raised in further detail.

RESOLVED that an invitation be sent to the Deputy Chief Officer, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service to attend a future Council meeting.

330. 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.

331. WHOLE PLACE DEVELOPMENT

Further to Minute No. 284, Members received the report of the Clerk which detailed tenders received for the development and production of a whole place plan. Tenders were circulated to four reputable social research companies, two of which were returned.

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Both companies had the necessary project team expertise to deliver the required support and had both worked on projects in Llanelli. The main difference between the two companies was the number of days committed to community engagement.

Members debated the tenders set out in the report and having raised various questions regarding the tender specifications, it was

RESOLVED that the tender submitted by The Means, 21-25 West End, Llanelli, SA15 3DN in the sum of £15,000 excluding VAT be accepted, subject to some alterations to the tender specification concerning community engagement.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk, Chairman of Council, Leader of Council and one member from each political party or group shall initially meet with the preferred bidder, as a working group to firm up the detailed parameters for compiling the whole place plan.

332. STAFFING MATTERS

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

RESOLVED that the report referenced 12:2014 be accepted.

333. SEASONAL GREETINGS

The Chairman wished Members and Staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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The meeting concluded at 6.20 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 January, 2015, adopted by the Council.