

**18 March, 2015.**

**LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL**

**Minute Nos: 440 – 446**

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, 18 March, 2015 at 4.45 p.m.

**Present:**

**Cllrs.**

L. A. Beer	R. E. Evans
T. Devichand	S. N. Lewis
H. J. Evans	J. S. Phillips
M. L. Evans	C. A. Rees

**440. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN PRO TEMPORE**

**RESOLVED** that Cllr. C. A. Rees be appointed Chairman pro tempore.

**441. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. T. Bowen, L. J. Butler, S. M. Donoghue, A. G. Morgan, A. J. Rogers (Cllr. S. N. Lewis deputising) and G. H. Wooldridge (Cllr. R. E. Evans deputising).

**442. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**443. DEVOLUTION, DEMOCRACY AND DELIVERY  
WHITE PAPER – POWER TO LOCAL PEOPLE**

Further to Minute No. 282, Members considered the White Paper 'Power to Local People' received from the Welsh Government. The White Paper detailed the changes the Welsh Government proposed for the latest round of public service reform.

The proposal affected:

- The democratic process (including the roles and remuneration of elected Members and senior officers);
- Community governance (with particular emphasis on community councils);
- Corporate governance (service performance, scrutiny, audit, inspection and regulation); and

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- Local government finance.

The vision of the Welsh Government was that people in Wales were served by responsible Councils that listened to everyone in their area, that represented the communities they served and were accountable for delivering good quality services.

The number of Principle Authorities across Wales would decrease with as few as six possibly remaining under plans for local government reorganisation across Wales. New powers were proposed for Local Authorities to merge or enlarge local Community Councils.

There were 735 Community Councils in Wales. Community Councils worked at the town or village level and some served a very small area. The Welsh Government believed this was too many and the smaller Community Councils didn't have the resources to get much done. The Welsh Government wanted fewer larger Community Councils and therefore smaller Community Councils should look at joining together to form larger Community Councils that looked after wider areas. In order to achieve this, Local Authorities would be given the power to review Community Councils in their area and with a view to reducing the overall number and for them to complete the work by 2022.

The Welsh Government would like Community Councils to be more ambitious and actively involved in participating in services which meet the needs of vulnerable groups in communities.

The White Paper also proposed a financial threshold of £200,000 for the creation of competent Town and Community Councils. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill would require Community Councils with a turnover of £200,000 or more to show how they were contributing to achieving the well-being objectives in their area, as set by the proposed Public Services Boards.

Merged Local Authorities would remain subject to the Welsh language standards set by regulation under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

The Clerk continued to lead Members through the White Paper via the aid of the accompanying detailed consultation questionnaire which asked specific questions about the topic areas covered in the White Paper.

*During discussion of the above, Cllr. R. E. Evans left the meeting.*

Members discussed the questionnaire in detail and following which it was

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk completes a covering letter to accompany the submission of the questionnaire to Welsh Government highlighting Members views and comments about the White Paper and that where necessary the points referred to in the consultation be further elaborated upon as part of the Council's response.

*Cllr. T. Devichand left the meeting.*

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**444. CCTV**

Members considered correspondence from the (Interim) Assistant Chief Executive, Carmarthenshire County Council informing of changes to the monitoring of its CCTV cameras.

The County Council CCTV was currently jointly funded by the Council and Dyfed Powys Police & Crime Commissioner. Cameras were provided in Ammanford, Burry Port, Carmarthen and Llanelli with a total of 87 cameras monitored and recorded in Carmarthen and Llanelli Police Stations.

The County Council undertook a public consultation on the proposal to reduce the hours of live monitoring of the Council CCTV system to peak times only in order to make efficiencies of £50,000 over the next three years. The outcome of that consultation was a small majority in support of the proposal. In January 2015, the Dyfed Powys Police & Crime Commissioner published the findings of an independent review of CCTV provision in the Dyfed-Powys area. The findings of the review noted that there was no case to support active monitoring of public CCTV. As a result, in January 2015 the Dyfed-Powys Police & Crime Commissioner withdrew funding for the CCTV service in Carmarthenshire from 1 April, 2015. As a result of this it was proposed to end all active monitoring by the Council of CCTV systems in Carmarthenshire but to continue to support on-going costs in relation to the recorded system which could be accessed for Police use.

Following discussion, Members raised their concerns and were of the strong opinion that there should be no cuts in funding CCTV across Carmarthenshire. Members were firmly of the view that active monitoring should continue certainly in the town centres and crime hotspot areas as this would deter crime and anti-social behaviour. Furthermore it would act as a spur to activate and mobilise real time Police response to incidents in these areas.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk responds to the consultation exercise highlighting Members views and concerns by making a strong objection to the reduction in CCTV funding.

**445. 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.

**446. INVESTORS IN PEOPLE REVIEW**

Members received correspondence from the Investors in People Assessor, confirming the Council's continued recognition as an Investor in People. The review was successful and confirmed the Council continued to operate to the principles of Investors in People.

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**RESOLVED** that the information be noted with pleasure and congratulations be conveyed to all involved in the process.

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The meeting concluded at 6.25 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 April, 2015, adopted by the Council.