

19 October, 2016.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 249 – 258

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, 19 October, 2016 at 4.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr. A. G. Morgan (Vice Chairman (in the Chair))

Cllrs

D. M. Cundy	M. L. Evans
S. L. Davies	R. E. Evans
T. Devichand	S. N. Lewis
S. M. Donoghue	C. A. Rees

249. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. F. Akhtar (Cllr. S. L. Davies deputising), T. Bowen, M. V. Davies, T. J. Jones, J. S. Phillips (Cllr. M. L. Evans deputising) and A. J. Rogers (Cllr. S. N. Lewis deputising).

250. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

<i>Minute No.</i>	<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Interest</i>
257	S. L. Davies	Personal – committee member of Dafen Welfare Hall Committee
257	T. Devichand	Personal – Chair, Dafen Welfare Hall Committee
257	S. N. Lewis	Personal – committee member, Dafen Welfare Hall Committee

251. SERVICE PLANS 2016/17

Members considered the half yearly report on the Council's Service Plans for 2016/17 which reviewed the key objectives and targets of the wide ranging services provided for the following groups:-

- Administrative Services;
- Community Services;
- Recreation and Leisure Services; and
- Training Services.

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RESOLVED that the Service Plans be accepted.

252. CARMARTHENSHIRE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

Members received a consultation document and supporting questionnaire response form from the Head of Planning, Carmarthenshire County Council in respect of a draft Carmarthenshire Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule.

The County Council was in the process of preparing and considering a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule. The CIL was a system of planning charges that the local authorities could levy on new building projects through power provided under the Planning Act 2008. The levy was a fixed rate charge per square metre of additional floorspace that developers pay on commencement of development or through an agreed phasing of payment during construction. The levy was raised to help pay for the infrastructure that was needed to support planned development.

The CIL was intended to provide infrastructure to support the development of an area rather than making an individual planning application acceptable in planning terms. As such CIL would not fully replace Section 106 Agreements.

Members did not support the concept of introducing CIL in Carmarthenshire and felt the money raised from development obligations should be retained in the locality where the development occurred and preferred to retain the current process of using Section 106 agreements to facilitate this. Members questioned the economic viability of introducing CIL and the negative impact this would have on individuals and local businesses. Members also expressed concern about some of the schemes and infrastructure improvements identified and to be funded via the CIL. The vast majority of these improvements lay outside the Llanelli area and yet a substantial number of development opportunities had been identified in and around the Llanelli area. Any proceeds raised under CIL would be invested elsewhere. Members also expressed disappointment about the Council not being initially consulted over the type of infrastructure improvements to be included on the regulation 123 list and it was

RESOLVED that the Clerk responds to the consultation questionnaire highlighting Members' views and concerns and enquires be made with the County Council as to why the Council was not consulted about the type and location of infrastructure improvements identified on the regulation 123 list of priorities.

**253. MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2017-2022**

Members were circulated with the draft Corporate Plan 2017-2022 received from the Chairman, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA).

The draft Corporate Plan 2017-2022 set out the draft strategic priorities for the next five years. The plan also contained the 12 draft improvement objectives for 2017/2018 which had been designed to help the FRA to deliver against its strategic priorities. The improvement objectives had been set in the context of the significant challenges facing public services but also reflected an appetite to embrace innovative ideas and new ways of working. The FRA

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was also keen to embrace the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and had revised the planning arrangements to reflect the new duties and commitments.

Members welcomed the consultation document but felt it was too general in nature to draw any conclusions from it about the potential future configuration of the fire service in and around Llanelli. Members also expressed views about objective 7 (review and develop response to flooding incidents) and what sort of impact this would have on Llanelli given that certain parts of Llanelli were prone to flooding. Members also referred to the Council's desire to work in partnership with the FRA in developing its community flood warden scheme and following which it was

RESOLVED that:

1. The Clerk be authorised to respond to the draft Corporate Plan 2017-2022 highlighting Members' views; and
2. The Senior Chief Fire Officer be invited to attend a future Council meeting to discuss the impact the improvement objectives might have on the fire service in the Llanelli area.

**254. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES
DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2017**

Members were circulated with the draft Annual Report 2017/18 received from the Chairman, Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. In accordance with the requirements of Section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, the Panel's draft annual report (which included proposals which would take effect for the financial year 2017) had now been published on its website.

Members' attention was drawn to section 13 of the report wherein it stated the payments to members of community and town councils. Members were informed unlike principal authorities where determinations were mandatory, community and town councils must firstly decide by resolution which determinations, if any, were to be adopted by the council. The rates specified, if adopted, could not be amended although individual Members could opt out of receiving payments by advising the Deputy Clerk (Administration) in writing of their individual wishes.

The Clerk then invited Members as in previous years to decide by formal resolution which if any of the Panel's determinations shall be adopted in advance of the 2017/18 municipal year assuming the draft Annual Report would not be subject to change prior to it being published in February, 2017, and it was

RESOLVED that the following draft determinations be adopted by the Council:

1. Determination 44: Community and Town Councils are authorised to make a payment to each of their members of a maximum amount of £150 per year for costs incurred in respect of telephone usage, information technology, consumables etc.
2. Determination 45 shall not be adopted whereby community and town councils are authorised to make an annual payment not exceeding £500 each up to three members in recognition of specific responsibilities. However, and in preference to this, Determinations 46 and 47 shall provide for payments to be respectively made to the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Council as indicated in resolutions 3 and 4 below.

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3. Determination 46: Community and Town Councils are authorised to provide a civic allowance to the mayor/chair of the Council and so the Council agrees to make an annual payment of £500 to the Chairman to undertake the functions of that office. This was in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses if that is made and also in addition to the annual budget set by the Council to defray costs and expenses in performing the role.

4. Determination 47: Community and Town Councils are authorised to provide a civic allowance to the deputy mayor/deputy chair of the Council and so the Council agrees to make an annual payment of £250 to the Vice Chairman to undertake the functions of that office. This was in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses if that was made and also in addition to the annual budget set by the Council to defray costs and expenses in performing the role.

5. Determination 48 - Community and town councils are authorised to make payments to each of their members in respect of travel costs for attending approved duties. Such payments must be the actual costs of travel by public transport or the HMRC mileage allowances as below:

- 45p per mile up to 10,000 miles in the year.
- 25p per mile over 10,000 miles.
- 5p per passenger per mile carried on Council business
- 24p per mile for private motor cycles.
- 20p per mile for bicycles.

6. Determination 49: If community and town councils resolve that a particular duty requires overnight stay, it may authorise reimbursement of subsistence expenses to its Members at the maximum rates set out below on the basis of receipted claims:

- £28 per 24 hour period allowance for meals, including breakfast where not provided.
- £200 – London overnight.
- £95 – elsewhere overnight.
- £30 – staying with friends and/or family overnight.

7. Determination 50: Community and town councils are authorised to pay a Financial Loss Allowance to each of their members where such loss has actually occurred, for attending approved duties as follows:

- Up to £33.00 for a period not exceeding 4 hours.
- Up to £66.00 for a period exceeding 4 hours but not exceeding 24 hours.

8. Determination 51: Community and town councils are authorised to provide for the reimbursement of necessary costs for the care of dependent children and adults (provided by informal or formal carers) up to a maximum of £403 per month. Reimbursement shall only be made on production of receipts from the carer.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Independent Remunerations Panel for Wales be invited to reconsider and revisit its decision to remove its previous determination allowing community and town councils the ability to pay an attendance allowance to each of its members for attending approved duties outside the area of the Council. It was felt this would be both appropriate and proportionate to members serving on larger local councils where there was wide diversification of service provision and given there was a greater demand on member's time and commitment in performing the role.

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255. HEART OF WALES LINE

Members considered correspondence from the Heart of Wales Line Development Company Ltd.

Arriva Trains Wales had been the train operating company for the railway line franchise since 2003. The franchise was established for 15 years with no provision for growth and was due to end in 2018. This provided the opportunity to influence the terms of the new franchise with Welsh Government and to discuss the needs of the communities that the line served with the companies bidding for the chance to run it.

Following discussion, whereby Members commented that train times were infrequent and there needed to be a faster service, it was

RESOLVED that the Clerk forwards Members views to the Heart of Wales Line Development Company Ltd.

Cllr. C. A. Rees left the meeting.

256. 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.

257. TRANSFER OF COMMUNITY ASSETS FROM CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr. S. L. Davies declared a personal interest in the following matter as she was a committee member of Dafen Welfare Hall Committee. Cllr. T. Devichand declared a personal interest in the following matter as she was the Chair of Dafen Welfare Hall Committee. Cllr. S. N. Lewis declared a personal interest in the following matter as he was a member of Dafen Welfare Hall Committee.

Prior to considering this matter, Members noted that the Council's Recreation and Welfare Committee had met on 18 October, 2016, (Minute No. 245 refers) and had resolved that the report item be accepted along with a further recommendation that Members of the Policy and Resources Committee also accept the report in order to proceed with the transfer of the parks, playfields and play areas listed in the report. It was remarked that the same set of Members present at today's meeting also sat on the Recreation and Welfare Committee meeting held yesterday except for Cllr. S. N. Lewis. Rather than covering the report in detail once again at tonight's committee meeting the Chairman asked for Cllr. S. N. Lewis' consent to proceed to accept the report unless Cllr. Lewis wished to ask any specific questions about any of its content. Cllr. Lewis having previously read the report didn't have any specific questions to ask and concurred there was no need to go over the report once again in detail for her benefit but she was pleased the transfers would be proceeding and so she was happy to accept the

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recommendations and decisions made during the Recreation and Welfare Committee meeting. Following a brief discussion, it was

RESOLVED that Cllr. Lewis' comments be noted and that the report be accepted and the resolution set out in Minute No. 245 of the Recreation and Welfare Committee held on 18 October, 2016, be fully endorsed.

258. STAFFING MATTERS

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

RESOLVED that the report referenced 10:2016 be accepted.

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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 8 November, 2016, adopted by the Council.