

19 November, 2014.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 280 – 286

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 November, 2014 at 4.45 p.m.

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

Cllrs.

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| L. A. Beer | H. J. Evans |
| L. J. Butler | R. E. Evans |
| S. L. Davies | S. N. Lewis |
| G. N. R. Edwards | C. A. Rees |

280. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

281. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. S. L. Davies declared a personal interest in Minute No. 284 as she was involved in her capacity as a County Councillor.

**282. DEVOLUTION, DEMOCRACY AND DELIVERY
WHITE PAPER – PUBLIC SERVICES STAFF COMMISSION**

Further to Minute No. 193, Members considered the White Paper 'Public Services Staff Commission' received from the Welsh Government. The White Paper outlined the Welsh Government's proposal to establish a Staff Commission to advise Welsh Ministers on the workforce issues affecting the Public Service workforce in dealing with staffing matters.

The White Paper sought views on whether the Welsh Government's vision was the right one and whether consultees had suggestions on how it could further be developed.

The Welsh Government wanted to ensure that the Local Authority planned mergers were part of a wider, transformative change to the way in which Local Government and the whole of the public service operated, in a way previous reorganisations were not. This would mean fundamental change to the way in which Local Authorities work, plan service delivery, work with other public services and would further increase the importance of good workforce planning. This would have to be tackled collaboratively across the public service. It would

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be important to establish a firm foundation for addressing technical matters such as differences in terms and conditions, job evaluation and single status.

The Welsh Government planned to establish a Staff Commission by April 2015. It would then be in position to proceed with the Local Authority mergers, to support existing Authorities to retain vital skills within Local Government and within the wider public service. It would help minimise the emotional costs of redundancy for staff and its associated financial costs to the public sector by developing a framework including guidance to ensure all options for redeployment were explored.

There then followed a stimulating and lengthy discussion, following which it was

RESOLVED that the Clerk responds to the White Paper – Public Services Staff Commission, highlighting the Council’s general support for the establishment of the Staff Commission. Furthermore that Members’ views and comments be forwarded regarding composition of the Commission to include an independent and elected representatives to serve on it; that its remit be extended to cover the Police service and Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust; that it not be given powers to issue guidance in its own right whereas instead it should only be able to make recommendations to Welsh Ministers about issuing guidance and finally that the creation of the statutory Staff Commission be time limited and phased out at the end of the current public service reform programme.

283. REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF BYNEA WARD AND LLANGENNECH WARD

Members considered correspondence from the Chief Executive, Carmarthenshire County Council concerning a review of electoral arrangements to the Council’s Bynea Ward and Llangennech Community Council (Llangennech Ward).

The writer stated that the purpose of the review was to resolve an anomaly between the community boundaries of Llanelli Rural Council (Bynea Ward) and Llangennech Community Council (Llangennech Ward) which had been highlighted due to the housing development at Bryn Uchaf, Bryn.

Following debate over the current route of the community boundary whereby it virtually bisected the Bryn Uchaf housing estate, Members then considered potential alterations to the boundary in the interests of effective and convenient local government and it was

RESOLVED that Carmarthenshire County Council be requested to permanently alter the community boundary so that the entire housing estate resides within Llanelli Rural Council’s administrative area. To give effect to this the existing boundary at the point where it cuts across Heol Y Mynydd should instead continue in a northerly direction along the centre of Heol Y Mynydd until it reaches the southern edge of the parcel of land where the electricity sub station is located just before the left hand bend in the road. At that point the boundary should then proceed in an easterly direction to link back up to the existing boundary along the field boundary running above the northern edge of the housing estate.

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**284. WHOLE PLACE DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES**

Cllr. S. L. Davies declared a personal interest in the following matter as she was involved in her capacity as a County Councillor.

Further to Minute No. 412 (10 February, 2014), Members received the report of the Clerk informing of the legislative developments impacting upon the work and future capacity of the Council together with a business proposal received from 'The Means' for the development of a whole place plan for Llanelli Rural Council's administrative area. The report also updated Members over progress with the community development opportunities.

Members fully debated the findings set out in the report and also considered the ramifications of impending legislative changes. The Council would in future need to demonstrate how it contributed to a county wide local well-being plan, with it taking all reasonable steps in its area towards meeting the objectives included in the local well-being plan. The plan would be prepared by a newly formed Public Service Board with the plan replacing the existing Community Strategy (currently produced by the Local Service Board).

In view of this anticipated legislative responsibility, Members then proceeded to consider a business proposal received from 'The Means' for the development of a whole place plan for the Council's administrative area. The creation of a whole place plan would aid the Council to offset and meet its duty to support the requirements set out in the Well-Being Future Generations (Wales) Bill.

Members focus then switched to future community development opportunities, community liaison and community collaboration and to the creation of a Community Development Officer post. The Council had previously set aside a £40,000 budget for community development initiatives.

Cllr. R. E. Evans left the meeting.

Given the legalistive developments coupled with the Welsh Government's intention of reshaping public services through its reform proposals, it was

RESOLVED that

- (1) The report be accepted in principle;
- (2) The creation of a whole place plan be accepted subject to the development work being put out to open competition to other social research companies in addition to the proposal received from 'The Means' and that the results be reported back to committee for further consideration;
- (3) The creation of a Community Development Officer post also be accepted and that a draft job description together with terms and conditions be presented for further committee consideration;
- (4) The Council's budget commitment of £40,000 for community development initiatives be used to fund the development of the whole place plan and the creation of the new Community Development Officer post with all preliminary work associated with both initiatives being expedited as quickly as possible.

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Cllr. C. A. Rees left the meeting

285. 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.

286. STAFFING MATTERS

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

RESOLVED that the report referenced 11:2014 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 9 December, 2014, adopted by the Council.