

16 October, 2013.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 252 – 259

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, 16 October, 2013 at 4.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr. M. V. Davies (Chairman)

Cllrs.

S. L. Davies	R. E. Evans
H. J. Evans	S. N. Lewis
M. L. Evans	A. G. Morgan
A. J. Rogers	

252. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. L. A. Beer, D. M. Cundy (Cllr. S. N. Lewis deputising), T. Devichand (S. L. Davies deputising) S. M. Donoghue T. J. Jones (R. E. Evans deputising) and C. A. Rees.

253. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

254. SERVICE PLANS

Members considered the half yearly report on the Council's Service Plans for 2013/14 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.

During discussion Members referred to the various performance indicator measures in particular the percentage of Councillors attending Council and Committee meetings and the importance of improving overall levels of attendance.

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Whilst generally accepting the content of the service plans, Members referred to the financial support for the National Eisteddfod of Wales 2014 being held in Carmarthenshire and the Council's £10,000 budget for the event.

Members felt it was important to ascertain where the Council's funding for the event would be allocated too, and it was

RESOLVED that

1. the Service Plans be accepted;
2. an invitation be extended to a guest speaker to further discuss the National Eisteddfod of Wales 2014 funding.

**255. MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
DRAFT ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2014/2015**

Members were circulated with the Draft Annual Improvement Plan 2014-2015.

During 2014-15 the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority would deliver upon three key improvement objectives which it believed would improve safety whilst delivering excellent services which met the risks and needs of the communities.

The three key improvement objectives were:

- Improve internal and external communications/engagement;
- Managing reduced budgets to Support Safer Communities;
- Improve education.

During discussion Members noted the consultation document was not particularly detailed with information on how the Fire and Rescue Service would achieve its planned objectives. Generally there wasn't a great deal of statistical information to perform any meaningful stakeholder analysis.

Members did highlight a matter associated with the second objective – 'managing reduced budgets to support safer communities'. One of the planned actions referred to implementing the outcomes of the strategic review of service delivery management arrangements for Swansea and Neath Port Talbot. Members commented this might have an impact on Llanelli Fire Station. Members referred to the changes made to the crewing arrangements at Llanelli and the same might be planned for fire stations in Swansea and Neath Port Talbot. If this proved to be the case, service support from these stations to Llanelli during emergencies might diminish and this would be a concern.

The Clerk referred to the impending visit of Group Manager, Mr Roger Thomas, Head of Carmarthenshire County Command to the Council's November meeting. This would provide an opportunity for the Fire Service to elaborate upon this point and in view of such it might be prudent to defer sending the Council's consultation response until after the visit and it was

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RESOLVED that the Council's consultation response be kept in-abeyance until after the planned visit of Group Manager, Mr Roger Thomas (Head of Carmarthenshire County Command, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service) to the Council's November meeting.

256. POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW

Members received correspondence from the Electoral Services Manager, Carmarthenshire County Council regarding polling places within the Council's administrative area.

To comply with the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places Regulations 2006 and Section 17 of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, Carmarthenshire County Council had to perform a review of all the polling districts and polling places in its area.

The County Council was inviting the Council to send any observations to it for consideration by 26 November, 2013.

RESOLVED that the Clerk circulates the correspondence to all Council Members seeking any suggestions or recommendations, in order for the same to be forwarded to the County Council in support of the review.

**257. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES
DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15**

Members were circulated with the Draft Annual Report 2014/15 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 2014/15) had now been published on its website.

Members' attention was drawn to section 10 of the report wherein it stated the payments to members of community and town councils. There were no changes to the previous determinations introduced on 1 April, 2013, except for the deletion of a 'Cardiff rate' in the overnight subsistence arrangements and it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

258. 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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259. VEHICLE AND MACHINERY

Members considered the report of the Deputy Clerk (Administration) informing of emergency repairs undertaken to the Peugeot car and Case tractor which would result in an overspend on budget heads. Repairs to both the car and tractor were essential to enable on-going use of the items. The cost to the car was £442 and £1,744 to the tractor.

Thereupon and further to Minute No. 97, the Deputy Clerk (Administration) stated that various items of ground maintenance equipment had been procured from Carmarthenshire County Council, in anticipation of the Council taking over the three parks and play areas it had identified to support the County Council's asset transfer programme. The following items had been acquired:

1. John Deere ride on tractor
2. Grass collector
3. Ferris walk-behind mower.

The total expenditure amounted to £3,500 for the machinery.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that the report be accepted.

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The meeting concluded at 5.35 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 12 November, 2013, adopted by the Council.