

17 October, 2007.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 242 - 249

At a Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Conference Room, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Wednesday, 17 October, 2007, at 4.45 p.m.

Present: A. G. Morgan (Chairman)

Cllrs.

T. D. Bowen	M. L. Evans
M. Davies	M. Howells
T. Devichand	M. P. Jones
C. Edwards	R. G. Thorne

242. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. S. M. Caiach (Cllr. M. Davies deputising), D. V. Darby (Cllr. M. Howells deputising), D. J. Davies and T. J. Jones.

243. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. T. Devichand declared an interest in Minute No. 245 as she was a member of the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority.

244. SERVICE PLANS 2007/08

Members considered the half yearly report on the Council's Service Plans for 2007/08 which reviewed the key objectives and targets of the wide ranging services provided.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

**245. FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITIES –
PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT FRAMEWORK
AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

Cllr. T. Devichand declared an interest in the following item as she was a member of the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority. Cllr. Devichand did not speak or vote on the matter.

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Pursuant to Minute No. 437 (21 February, 2007), Members were circulated with the above consultation document received from the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, Welsh Assembly Government.

The performance measurement framework, as adapted for the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) in Wales, included four groups of Performance Indicators (PI) which would measure a Fire and Rescue Authority's (FRA) performance in exercising functions: shared outcomes, national priorities for FRAs based on targets set out in the FRS National Framework for Wales, core indicators (covering both corporate and operational issues) and local indicators.

The PIs prescribed in this consultation covered two of those groups – the national priorities and core indicators. It was intended that FRAs should have reference to all the PIs for the year 2007/08 onwards.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the recommendations within the document be accepted.

**246. LOCAL VISION, PREPARING COMMUNITY STRATEGIES –
REVISED COMMUNITY STRATEGY GUIDANCE**

A draft Community Strategy Guidance document was received from the Head of Local Government Policy Division, Welsh Assembly Government, which supported the Assembly Government's commitments in 'A Shared Responsibility' and which outlined proposals for a potential duty to co-operate in community planning.

Once adopted, the revised statutory guidance would replace the existing guidance issued in 2001. The guidance reflected lessons from many sources: including those that emerged during community planning to date; the findings of the Beecham review; related consultations such as those on Local Service Boards and the work of a number of Task and Finish Groups.

The framework set out within the guidance provided the structure for the delivery of key national and local policy priorities – the community strategy established the 15 year vision for the area; the Local Service Agreement would prioritise and set out the shared public service delivery improvements to be delivered and how these would be achieved; and the Local Service Board would drive the whole process.

As part of this consultation, the Assembly Government sought this Council's views on the possibility of inviting the National Assembly for Wales to legislate to create a duty on local partners to co-operate in developing and delivering community strategies, however, this was subject to the Assembly acquiring the necessary powers in the current Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill.

In terms of the scrutiny proposals, the National Assembly for Wales also intended to seek Measure Making Powers to bring forward proposals to reform scrutiny arrangements, these would be subject to a separate consultation, but given their likely impact on community strategies, the Assembly Government would be interested in this Council's initial views now.

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During discussion, Members stated that the Town and Community Councils' tier of local government was very important and that partnerships should be engaged at grassroots level and work through the system. It was felt that the chapter referring to 'Engagement and Scrutiny' adequately described other organisations' role in, and contributions to, community planning and that consultation and engagement with the public should be appropriate and user friendly.

RESOLVED that Members' views and comments be forwarded to Community Strategies, Welsh Assembly Government.

247. 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.

248. VEHICLES – PURCHASE OF CAR

Members having considered the report of the Deputy Clerk (Administration) regarding the selection process for purchasing a car, it was

RESOLVED that the Chairman of Committee, Chairman and Leader of Council, together with an Officer, visit local garages to view appropriate vehicles and report on the quotations received at the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

249. STAFFING MATTERS

RESOLVED that the report of the Deputy Clerk (Administration) be received and adopted.

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The Meeting concluded at 5.30 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 November, 2007, adopted by the Council.