

18 November, 2009.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 325 – 331

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 November, 2009, at 4.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr. D. J. Davies (Vice-Chairman (in the Chair))

Cllrs.

T. D. Bowen	H. J. Evans
T. Devichand	T. Rh. Ifan
M. V. Davies	A. C. Thomas
G. H. Wooldridge	

325. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. S. M. Caiach, T. J. Jones, C. A. Rees and V. R. Thomas.

326. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Member declared an interest in the under-mentioned matter:-

Minute No.	Councillor	Interest
329.	D. J. Davies	Member, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority

**327. DYFED –POWYS POLICE AUTHORITY -
POLICING PLANS 2010/13**

Members considered a letter dated 30 October, 2009, received from the Chief Executive of Dyfed Powys Police Authority, requesting this Council's views on which three local policing priorities should be put forward for next year's plan commencing in April 2010.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the following priorities be forwarded:-

- Accessibility to Police
- Anti-social behaviour
- Drug-related crime

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**328. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) MEASURE 2009 -
STATUTORY GUIDANCE**

Members considered consultation documents received from the Head of Local Government Policy Division, Welsh Assembly Government in respect of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 which received Royal approval on 10 June, 2009.

The Measure comprised two substantive parts: Part 1 dealt with Local Government improvement and addressed reforming the Wales Programme for Improvement (WPI), the programme succeeded the Best Value regime in Wales. The Clerk stated that Town and Community Councils were exempt from WPI and so the only facets of the consultation document of particular interest to the local council sector were the sections covering 'Working Together' and 'Accounting for Improvement'. These two sections covered consultation with the community and wider public engagement. The Council would therefore be perceived as an external stakeholder when commenting on County Council plans and reports under the revised arrangements.

Part 2 of the Measure addressed Community Strategies and Planning. Members were informed that the extant community planning guidance 'Local Vision' (issued in March 2008) anticipated most of what's included in the Measure. However, the guidance had been updated to closely follow the processes that local authorities (principal councils) and their partners would need to use under the Measure.

The Clerk then proceeded to guide Members through the draft consultation document. Members were encouraged to note that for the first time under the Measure, Town and Community Councils were classified as community planning partners, thereby giving the local council sector legal status in the community planning process. Under the Measure, local councils were encouraged either singly or jointly with neighbouring Town and Community Councils to prepare strategies for their own individual communities. These local strategies would outline how the immediate area could be developed sustainably and would identify local council contributions in implementing the strategies.

Members were pleased with the formal role now proposed for the local council sector and following discussion of how the Council's future involvement in community planning could help influence change locally it was

RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to respond to the consultation document setting out the Council's general support for the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

**329. PROPOSED GUIDANCE FOR THE WALES PROGRAMME FOR
IMPROVEMENT FOR THE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITIES IN
WALES**

Cllr. D. J. Davies declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following matter as he was a Member of the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority and took no part in the proceedings.

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Members considered correspondence received from the Head of Fire and Rescue Services Branch, Welsh Assembly Government (WAG). WAG were consulting on proposed guidance for the Fire and Rescue Authorities on Part 1 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

The guidance took account of, and extensively mirrored the guidance produced for local authorities and national park authorities (to which Minute No. 327 refers) in order to maintain a level of consistency across improvement authorities that were subject to the Measure. It set out the change in focus on improvement – from gains in service output and efficiency and the internal effectiveness of Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) to a stronger link between improvement and outcomes that enhanced the quality of life of citizens and communities. Members were informed that the guidance recognised the synergy between improvement planning and FRAs existing Risk Reduction Planning. Furthermore, the guidance set out practical ways of implementing the Measure and streamlined requirements of existing FRA consultation and report mechanisms. The guidance also recognised WAG’s vision and priorities for FRAs as set out in the Fire and Rescue National Framework.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to respond to the consultation document setting out the Council’s support for the proposed guidance.

330. 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.

331. STAFFING MATTERS

Members were circulated with the report of the Deputy Clerk (Administration) informing of staffing matters.

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

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The Meeting concluded at 5.45 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 December, 2009, adopted by the Council.