

21 November, 2007.

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 292 - 299

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, 21 November, 2007, at 4.45 p.m.

Present: A. G. Morgan (Chairman)

Cllrs.

T. D. Bowen	M. Howells
S. M. Caiach	M. B. Hughes
D. J. Davies	M. P. Jones
T. Devichand	T. J. Jones
C. Edwards	R. G. Thorne

292. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. D. V. Darby (Cllr. M. Howells deputising), and M. L. Evans (Cllr. M. B. Hughes deputising).

293. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. T. Devichand declared an interest in Minute No. 294 as she was a member of the Carmarthenshire's Joint Commissioning Strategy for Health, Social Care and Housing.

294. CARMARTHENSIRE'S JOINT COMMISSIONING STRATEGY FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND HOUSING

Cllr. T. Devichand declared an interest in the following item as she was a member of the Carmarthenshire's Joint Commissioning Strategy for Health, Social Care and Housing.

A draft consultation document was received from the Joint Commissioning Officer, Older People's Services, Carmarthenshire Local Health Board.

The strategy aimed to address health, social care and housing needs of all people over the age of 65 living in Carmarthenshire and was based on the identified needs of the population, evidence from operational activities and knowledge of the wider market. It was stated that future purchasing and contracting activity would be based on the priorities identified in the strategy. The arrangements to develop and implement the commissioning strategy would be as open and transparent as possible, designed to engage patients, service users and carers, providers, clinicians and professionals as well as the wider community. However, it was also

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stated that any such developments had to be undertaken through redesigning and re-commissioning current services as no additional funding had been identified.

A questionnaire had also been circulated for Members' views and comments.

Members referred to the document as being excellent but suggested that the layout, structure and language used as being too detailed for a public version, whereas a snapshot of plans together with fundamental points, would have been adequate. Praise was given to the excellent training of staff across all sectors, however it was felt that, although the strategy was well intentioned, achieving its aims was debateable, particularly as funding was of a major issue. As Llanelli had the highest population figures in the county, specific plans and intent for the area would have been appreciated.

Limited mention had been made of mental health problems and Members did not agree that people suffering from dementia could live independently. Also, reference was made to the limited housing stock available and concern was raised as to its adequacy for the future, particularly in view of a migratory population and socially excluded groups.

Members having thanked the Clerk for his diligence, it was

RESOLVED that the completed questionnaire be forwarded to the Joint Commissioning Officer for Older People's Services, Carmarthenshire Local Health Board.

295. CRIME AND DISORDER IN CARMARTHENSHIRE

Correspondence had been received from the Chair, Community Safety Partnership, which stated that Carmarthenshire remained one of the safest areas in the country. Crime levels were low and the Dyfed-Powys Police force area, as a whole, was the safest region in the whole of the UK.

The Carmarthenshire Community Safety Partnership would be writing a new Community Safety Plan for April 2008, and this would set out exactly which problems were going to be tackled and how they would be dealt with. The Plan would be focussed on 2008/09 but would also cover the next 3 years and updated on an annual basis.

Members' views and comments were requested via a questionnaire.

During discussion, the following, in order of priority, were the problems Members felt required tackling the most:-

1. Under age drinking
2. Substance misuse
3. Speeding
4. Vandalism
5. Car crime
6. Burglary
7. Alcohol related violence

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It was believed that anti-social behaviour had got worse and reference was made to instances at Penygraig, Bynea, whereby migratory gangs were causing problems.

Reference was made to the difficulty in agreeing a corporate response to some questions as experiences differed from Ward to Ward. Generally, it was felt that neighbourhood policing was having a positive effect however, Members representing the Dafen and Felinfoel Wards felt that there was not a positive effect in their areas of late. It was felt that PCSO patrols did serve as a visual deterrent but it was suggested that varied patrol times could be more effective, particularly in the late evening and between 11.00 pm and 3.00 am.

RESOLVED that Members' views and comments be forwarded to the Carmarthenshire Community Safety Partnership.

296. SELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Members were circulated with a copy of an original report dated 11 October, 2002, and consideration was given to the review of arrangements for the selection of Chairman, and in particular, whether lapsed service should count when confirming appointments.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was

RESOLVED that

- (1) lapsed service shall no longer count when confirming appointments;
- (2) for the avoidance of doubt and, in support of the existing selection process, once a Member has served as Chairman, that Member would then be placed at the bottom of the length of service list, maintained by the Clerk;
- (3) the length of service list be re-named 'Qualifying Length of Service List' in support of the clarification set out in (2) above; and
- (4) the changes to the policy be enacted forthwith.

Cllr. S. M. Caiach thereupon withdrew from the meeting.

297. 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.

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298. VEHICLES – PURCHASE OF CAR

Pursuant to Minute No. 248, Members considered the report of the Deputy Clerk (Administration) and quotations received.

Following discussion, during which Members thanked the Deputy Clerk (Administration) for her attentiveness, it was

RESOLVED that

- (1) the Peugeot 407 SE Saloon 2.0 litre registered on 28 September, 2007, be purchased from Howard's of Carmarthen, Station Approach, Carmarthen, for the sum of £12,995; and that
- (2) the Citroën Picasso be sold to the Training Department for the sum of £4,000.

299. STAFFING MATTERS

Members were circulated with the report of the Deputy Clerk (Administration) informing of the following:-

- (1) New pay award and subsistence rates for 2007/08 applicable from 1 April, 2007, received from the National Joint Council for Local Government Services;
- (2) Christmas/New Year holiday arrangements; and
- (3) New Bank Holiday working arrangements.

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

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The Meeting concluded at 6.05 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 11 December, 2007, adopted by the Council.