

**18 December, 2019**

**LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL**

**Minute Nos: 336 – 344**

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 December, 2019, at 4.45 p.m.

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

**Cllrs.**

T. Devichand	J. P. Hart
P. M. Edwards	S. N. Lewis
H. J. Evans	A. G. Morgan
J. S. Phillips	

**Absent:** E. Simmons

**336. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. S. L. Davies, C. A. Rees, A. J. Rogers (Cllr. S. N. Lewis deputising) and I. G. Wooldridge.

**337. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**338. A MORE EQUAL WALES  
COMMENCING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY**

A consultation document was received from the Communities Division, Welsh Government on 'A More Equal Wales – Commencing Socio-Economic Duty'.

A priority for the Welsh Government was to take action to safeguard equality and human rights particularly in the context of Brexit. One piece of this work was through commencing the socio-economic duty – a commitment from the First Minister's election manifesto.

This involved enacting Part 1, Section 1 of the Equality Act 2010 – the socio-economic duty. It would require specified public bodies when making strategic decisions such as deciding priorities and setting objectives, to consider how their decisions might help to reduce the inequalities associated with socio-economic disadvantage.

It was proposed that the duty would apply to the following eligible public bodies as they were deemed to have satisfied the test under section 2(6) of the Equality Act 2010:

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- Welsh Ministers
- Local Health Boards
- NHS Trusts
- Welsh Special Health Authorities (HEIW)
- Local Authorities
- Fire and Rescue Services
- Welsh Revenue Authority; and
- National Park Authorities

The consultation sort the views from members of the public and key stakeholders on which public bodies should be captured by the duty and how the duty should be implemented.

Following discussion, the Clerk informed members that commencing the socio-economic duty did not apply to town and community councils but councils could be guided by the general principles nonetheless and it was

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

**339. THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) BILL  
WRITTEN STATEMENT**

Members received the Written Statement, Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill from the Minister for Housing and Local Government, Welsh Government that was issued to Assembly Members for consideration.

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill had been introduced to the National Assembly for Wales together with its Explanatory Memorandum and Regulatory Impact Assessment.

The Bill contained provisions which had been subject to extensive consultation and contained provisions to enable electoral reform and established a new governance framework for local government. The Welsh Government was changing the governance framework for local government to better enable innovation, transparency and local ownership for driving up service delivery outcomes and standards across Wales.

During discussion, the Clerk guided members through the general provisions included in the Bill and the likely impact these would have on the public sector generally as well as flagging up specific issues affecting the local council sector, and it was

**RESOLVED** that the Ministered Statement be noted and to await further developments on the progress of the Bill as it passes through the National Assembly for Wales.

**340. POLICE PRECEPT CONSULTATION 2020/21**

Correspondence and a questionnaire document was received from the Police and Crime Commissioner, Dyfed Powys Police informing of a recently launched public consultation on police funding.

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The local policing was funded from a Home Office grant as well as contributions from the public via Council tax. The police precept was the amount the public paid as part of their council tax and was used for local policing services.

The accompanying questionnaire set out three funding choices for members of the public to consider but given the subjective nature of the choices it was,

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted and that individual Members respond to the questionnaire on a personal basis if they so wished.

**341. 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.

**342. AGE CYMRU SIR GAR**

Members received correspondence from the Chief Officer, Age Cymru Sir Gâr informing of future proposals potentially affecting Age Cymru Sir Gâr and Age Cymru Ceredigion which had been classed as confidential by the author.

Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

**343. STAFFING MATTERS**

Members considered the report of the Deputy Clerk informing of staffing matters.

**RESOLVED** that the report referenced 12:2019 be accepted.

**344. SEASONAL GREETINGS**

The Chairman wished members and staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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The meeting concluded at 5.20 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 14 January, 2020, adopted by the Council.