

19 May, 2021

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 53 – 62

At a Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, and via remote attendance on Wednesday, 19 May, 2021, at 4.45 p.m.

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

Cllrs.

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| S. L. Davies | H. J. Evans |
| T. Devichand | J. P. Hart |
| P. M. Edwards | A. G. Morgan |
| J. S. Phillips | |

53. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. C. P. Beer, C. A. Rees and I. G. Wooldridge.

54. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

55. APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES

(1) HUMAN RESOURCES

RESOLVED that Cllrs S.M. Donoghue (Chairman of Committee), Cllrs. A. G. Morgan and J. S. Phillips be appointed.

(2) APPEALS

RESOLVED that Cllrs T.Devichand (Chairman of Council), S.L. Davies (Vice-Chairman of Committee) and Cllr. J. P. Hart be appointed.

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56. APPOINTMENT OF WORKING GROUPS

(1) WHOLE PLACE PLAN

RESOLVED that Cllrs. S. M. Donoghue (Chairman of Committee), T. Devichand (Chairman of Council), S. L. Davies, P. M. Edwards, H. J. Evans and J. S. Phillips be appointed.

(2) CLIMATE CHANGE STEERING GROUP

RESOLVED that Cllrs. T. Devichand (Chairman of Council), S. L. Davies, P. M. Edwards, H. J. Evans, J. P. Hart, T. J. Jones, A. G. Morgan and I. G. Wooldridge be appointed.

57. SERVICE PLANS 2021/22

Members considered the council's service plans for the financial year 2021/22 which set key objectives for the following service groups:-

- Administrative Services;
- Community Services;
- Recreation and Leisure Services; and
- Training Services.

RESOLVED that the service plans be accepted.

Arising out of the discussion of the above, it was

FURTHER RESOLVED that the councillors' meeting attendance record chart shall be presented to the next scheduled ordinary Policy and Resources Committee meeting for consideration.

58. LOCAL AUTHORITY POWER TO TRADE

Members considered a consultation document received from the Welsh Government on Local Authority Power to Trade.

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, gave qualifying local authorities (which included eligible community councils) a general power of competence. Authorities may use the general power to do things for a commercial purpose.

Welsh Government was consulting on draft Regulations which required authorities to prepare a business case before using the general power in this way. The consultation also sought views on the proposal that eligible community councils when exercising the general power be provided a power to trade in their ordinary functions.

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The Clerk drew members' attention to particular points of detail in the consultation document and the chairman then guided members through a series of set questions appended to the consultation bundle, and it was

RESOLVED that the Clerk responds to the consultation document highlighting members' views, observations and general support for the making of the draft regulations.

59. BUILDING A HEALTHIER FUTURE AFTER COVID 19

Members received a consultation document and an accompanying questionnaire from Hywel Dda University Health Board asking the people of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire to help it further shape and deliver future services by taking part in a six-week engagement exercise.

Since the publication of the health board's strategy, A Healthier Mid and West Wales: Our Future Generations Living Well in 2018, the health board had worked with partners to provide care and develop services. However, the Coronavirus pandemic has had a major impact on health and care services. As a result, the health board now wanted to learn from the public about how the pandemic had affected its health and care provision and general access to it.

The health board was also asking for the public's feedback in relation to its long term strategy to develop and build a new hospital in the south of the Hywel Dda area, somewhere between and including St. Clears, in Carmarthenshire, and Narberth, Pembrokeshire. This location was advocated on the basis it was the most central spot for most of the population in the south of the Hywel Dda area, as determined following public consultation in 2018.

Following a lengthy discussion it was felt that the pandemic has had a detrimental impact on mental health and that more counselling services should be made available at a local level. Moreover, health care services should be fully accessible to the public locally 24/7 without having to travel long distances or having to rely on public transport, given it was under-resourced and was often found to be inadequate and disjointed. Furthermore, it was recognised that the pandemic had a detrimental impact on patient waiting lists and the health board needed to do everything within its power to clear and catch-up with the backlog as a key priority including employing more clinicians. In regard to the siting of the new hospital, members felt the hospital should be located so as to serve the largest population base and major industry and with it enjoying excellent communication links that was accessible to all.

RESOLVED that the Clerk responds to the consultation document by completing the accompanying questionnaire, highlighting members' views and observations.

60. BT PROPOSAL TO REMOVE PUBLIC PAYPHONES

Correspondence was received from the Environment Department, Carmarthenshire County Council informing of BT's proposal to remove the telephone kiosk, near 111 Pwll Road, Pwll, Llanelli.

BT were also giving communities an opportunity to "adopt" red telephone kiosks at a cost of £1 each and to remove the telephony service at each of the "adopted" kiosks.

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Following discussion, during which the kiosk's small amount of call traffic over the past 12 months was highlighted, it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

61. 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.

62. STAFFING MATTERS

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

RESOLVED that the report referenced 05:2021 be accepted.

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The meeting concluded at 6.30 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 8 June, 2021, adopted by the Council.