

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

MEETING NOTES

At a Policy and Resources Committee Meeting hosted at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli and via remote attendance on Wednesday, 15 November, 2023, at 4.45 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs. S. R. Bowen, D. M. Cundy, A. Evans, N. Evans, R. E. Evans (committee chairman) S. M. T. Ford, J. P. Hart, S. N. Lewis, J. S. Phillips, W. E. Skinner, A. G. Stephens and B. M. Williams.

Agenda Items:

1. Apologies for absence.

None.

2. Members' Declarations of Interest in respect of the business transacted.

Cllr. A. Evans Item 7 – personal interest.

Cllr. A. G. Stephens Item 4 – personal and prejudicial interest.

3. Council Chairman Elect and Vice Chairman Elect Selection Framework – to consider a proposal to temporarily suspend the selection framework once the election of Cllr. M. V. Davies as Chairman of Council has taken place - matter requested for inclusion on the agenda by Cllr. N. Evans.

The proposal was approved.

4. Llanelli and District Shopmobility – further to Minute No. 173(8), to consider correspondence from the Chairman, Llanelli and District Shopmobility requesting financial assistance and to receive a verbal update from the clerk and to agree the council's response.

The correspondence be noted for the time being while the clerk to the council continues to hold discussions with stakeholders with a vested interest in the current operation and potential future management of the Shopmobility service.

5. Financial Assistance – further to Minute No. 173, to consider the following resolution from the Finance and General Purposes Committee:

“The issue of providing financial assistance to schools within the council’s administrative area be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee with a view to seeking parity and fairness, with standard sums being allocated in each and every case and not necessarily on application to the council but instead through proactive promotion through council notification to the schools”.

The current practice of using the current financial assistance framework further supported by member ward allocation donations was re-affirmed.

6. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW):–
 - (1) Draft Annual Report 2024/25 –to consider correspondence from the IRPW Secretariat, Welsh Government and to agree the Council’s response in respect of community and town council sector payments.

The correspondence and remuneration rates set out in the draft report were noted. However, from April 2024 it was agreed that the set £52 payment for consumables would be discontinued and instead the council would reimburse members for purchasing computer consumables on production of receipted payments as prescribed in the IRPW’s remuneration framework.

(2) Councillor allowances – home working arrangements and consumables – to consider a letter from the IRPW regarding treatment of tax on councillor allowances.

Noted and the suggested template letter to be issued to members enclosed with the Panel’s covering letter was also noted for future reference.

7. Community Review of all Town and Community Councils, Carmarthenshire County Council Area – further to Minute No. 118, to receive a consultation document from the Electoral Registration Officer, Carmarthenshire County Council and to agree the council’s response.

It was agreed that the Clerk responds to the accompanying questionnaire highlighting member’s views and observations in support of the recommendation for Glyn ward.

8. Review of Polling District and Polling Places 2023 – further to Minute No. 164, to consider correspondence from the Chief Executive, Carmarthenshire County Council.

Noted and moreover the recommendation contained in the correspondence that Pwll Pavilion would be used as a future polling station in the Hengoed Ward was supported.

9. Duty to Publish Training Plans under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 – to consider correspondence from the Legal Services Manager, Carmarthenshire County Council and to note for information the council’s published training plan (attached) and agree the council’s response.

Noted.

10. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960 – it was agreed to exclude members of the public during consideration of the following agenda item because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.
11. Human Resources - Staffing Matters - to receive the report of the Technical and General Operations Manager.

The matter was determined in private.

The meeting concluded at 5.55 p.m.