

**25 January, 2024**

**LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL**

**Minute Nos: 321 – 327**

At a Meeting of the **LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE** of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli and via remote attendance on Thursday, 25 January, 2024, at 4.45 p.m.

**Present:** Cllr. B. M. Williams (Chairman)

**Cllrs.**

S. R. Bowen                      N. Evans  
T. M Donoghue                S. N Lewis  
J. S. Phillips

**Absent:** N. A. Stephens, S. K. Nurse.

**321. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr. A. Evans.

**322. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**323. CONTRACT UPDATES 2023/24**

**(1) ITEC TRAINING SOLUTIONS LTD**

The Finance Manager reported upon an amendment made to the Training Department's 'Work Based Learning Agreement' contract held with Itec Training Solutions Ltd in regard to Welsh Government's Jobs Growth Wales+ programme. Additional funding had been secured to the end of March 2024. However, it was unclear at this stage as to the extent of the new contract offer from Itec Training Solutions Ltd going forward from April 2024. Members were informed that additional work had been also secured by collaborating with Coleg Sir Gar, with the Training Department acting as a sub-contractor for the college in support of centre based delivery of the college's Jobs Growth Wales+ programme and in this regard delivery was scheduled to commence imminently.

**25 January, 2024**

**(2) PRINCE'S TRUST**

The Finance Manager reported that the council had terminated the licence agreement for the use of its former training facility at the Lord Arthur Rank Centre, Machynys, Llanelli.

The council formerly vacated the premises on 12 January 2024. Consequently, the Prince's Trust programme was likely to be delivered from new premises, should the council elect to continue with the delivery of the programme. Discussions with Prince's Trust team representatives were currently ongoing in regard to the future delivery and sustainability of the programme.

Currently the funding received from the Prince's Trust was too low and needed to increase to make the programme more viable. Given the council's excellent track record in successfully running a local programme since 2016, it was hoped that more funding could be secured to continue running a programme from April 2024. This additional funding could be used to partially offset running costs of using a new premises. However, the council was still analysing whether it was in its longer term interests to deliver the programme from council owned premises or alternatively to take out a new lease with another private landlord but on more favourable economic terms than the former training centre at Machynys. Members were informed that the council's future participation in the Prince's Trust programme would be the subject of a further committee report as soon as discussions with the Princes Trust had concluded.

Following discussion it was

**RESOLVED** that the information reported in items (1) and (2) above be noted.

**324. APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMMES 2022/23**

Members were provided with an update on the final statistics issued to the Training Department from Skills Academy Wales (SAW) for the Foundation, Apprenticeship and Higher Apprenticeship programmes run by the council on behalf of the SAW partnership in 2022/23. In addition to the performance data evidenced in the statistics the Training Manager added that the Welsh Government's Learner Outcome Report would be published in March 2024, from which SAW's performance could be compared and benchmarked against other primary training providers throughout Wales.

The Finance Manager took members through the information providing explanations for the Training Department's performance and the challenges faced in retaining learners to fulfil the full framework especially in higher apprenticeships where the qualifications were spread over more than one year.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

**325. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION APPRENTICESHIPS**

The Business Apprenticeship Manager provided an update on recruitment activities for the Business Administration Apprenticeships programme.

**25 January, 2024**

Members were informed that learner numbers were low but going in the right direction. The target was to sign up 48 learners by July 2024. There had been positive responses to the current recruitment drive from various organisations in Carmarthenshire. These organisations included schools, Carmarthenshire County Council, Delta Wellbeing, Hywel Dda, the hospitality industry and the Church in Wales.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

**326. LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMMES**

The Logistics Apprenticeship Manager provided an update on the Logistics and Transportation programmes currently being delivered. Foundation Apprenticeship Programme Level 2, Apprenticeship Programme Level 3 and the Higher Apprenticeship Programme Level 4 were highlighted as the main apprenticeships offered with each being tailored to individual needs. Members were also provided with an explanation of the key components of the apprenticeship framework.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

**327. JOBS GROWTH WALES + PROGRAMME**

The Youth Employment Manager provided a progress report on the Jobs Growth Wales + programme. Members were informed that 48 learners were currently enrolled and two waiting to start. Four learners had progressed into employment with some having left due to personal reasons. The Prince’s Trust programme was currently on hold awaiting news of possible funding in April 2024. The Prince’s Trust Team 15 had won a Community Impact Award for 2023 and subsequently it had been put forward to the national final which was an excellent achievement. The Youth Employment Manager also mentioned the contract with Coleg Sir Gar and how the team was developing this relationship to get more learners on board.

Members thanked the training department for its hard work and successes.

**RESOLVED** the information be noted.

.....  
The Meeting concluded at 5.05 p.m.  
.....

The afore-mentioned Minutes were declared to be a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman presiding thereat and were, on 13 February, 2024 adopted by the Council.