13 October, 2026

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 190 – 197

At the **COUNCIL** Meeting of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, and via remote attendance on Tuesday, 13 October, 2026 at 6.00 p.m.

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

Cllrs.

D. M. Cundy	S. N. Lewis
M. V. Davies	J. Lovell
S. L. Davies	K. Morgan
E. M. Evans	J. S. Phillips
N. Evans	W. E. Skinner
R. E. Evans	A. G. Stephens

Absent: S. M. T. Ford, J. P. Hart, S. K. Nurse, O. Williams.

190. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. S. R. Bowen, A. Evans, A. G. Morgan and A. J. Rogers.

191. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. S. L. Davies declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute No. 195, in her role as Community Transport Development Officer, she was involved in ongoing work with Hywel Dda and the Welsh Ambulance Service in relation to transport provision.

192. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation in the proceedings.

193. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the following minutes (copies of which had been previously circulated to members) be confirmed and signed as a true record of proceedings:

Council	8 September, 2026
Recreation and Welfare Committee	15 September, 2026
Policy and Resources Committee	16 September, 2026

13 October, 2026

Planning and Liaison Committee	21 September, 2026
Finance and General Purposes Committee	30 September, 2026
Planning and Liaison Committee	12 October, 2026

194. AUDITING SOLUTIONS LIMITED

Members received and considered an engagement letter from Auditing Solutions Ltd regarding the provision of internal audit services to the council. The letter outlined the respective responsibilities of the Council and the internal auditors, confirming that the auditors would operate independently of the Council's decision-making processes and financial record keeping.

It was noted that the internal audit would be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations, the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, and the Governance and Accountability Manual (The Practitioner's Guide). The auditors confirmed that they would review the Council's accounting records, internal financial controls, risk management arrangements and compliance with relevant legislation.

Members noted that the auditors would report any significant weaknesses or observations identified during the audit process and that the agreement would remain in force for future financial years unless terminated by either party in accordance with the notice provisions set out in the letter.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the terms of engagement for the appointment of Auditing Solutions Ltd as the council's Internal Auditor for Financial Year 2026-27 be accepted.

195. HYWEL DDA UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD (HDUHB) – WELSH AMBULANCE SERVICES UNIVERSITY NHS TRUST – HYWEL DDA CLINICAL SERVICES PLAN, AMBULANCE CAPACITY AND TRANSPORT IMPLICATIONS

Cllr. S. L. Davies declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this matter, because she was the Community Transport Development Officer and took no part in discussions.

Further to Minute No. 160, members received and considered a copy of a letter sent by the Clerk to Ms Emma Wood, Chief Executive of the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust, regarding the ambulance capacity and transport implications of the proposed Hywel Dda Clinical Services Plan.

It was noted that the Council had welcomed the Trust's detailed response and assurances that it remained actively involved in the development of the Clinical Services Plan, including detailed modelling of the potential impact on emergency ambulance services, non-emergency patient transport, workforce and operational capacity. Members also welcomed the commitment to consider risks, dependencies and resource requirements as proposals progressed.

However, members expressed disappointment that the Trust did not currently consider attendance at a council meeting to be appropriate. Concerns remained regarding the potential impact of service changes on ambulance availability, journey and transfer times, patient transport services and access to healthcare for residents of Llanelli and the surrounding communities. The council reaffirmed the importance of engaging with the Trust at an early stage to ensure that local concerns and circumstances were taken into account as the evidence base was developed

RESOLVED that the correspondence be noted and that the Council continue to seek engagement with the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust.

196. 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**.**

197. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2025/26

Members considered the Internal Audit Report 2025/26 received from the Consultant Auditor on behalf of Auditing Solutions Ltd. The report concluded that the council continued to have effective systems in place and that there were no significant matters arising at the present time.

Members also considered the accompanying Internal Audit Recommendations Action Plan and noted the recommendations made by the Internal Auditor. These included reviewing and redeveloping the Council and Burial Services websites to improve accessibility, user experience, navigation and compliance with accessibility requirements, together with a review of the Training Services website to ensure continued compliance with relevant legislation.

Members further noted the recommendation that outstanding aged debts and unreconciled payments be actively managed and brought to a conclusion, including consideration of writing off historic debts where appropriate. The establishment and monitoring of formal credit control procedures was also recommended to support the effective management and recovery of outstanding debts.

In addition, Members noted the recommendation to diversify the council's investments through the use of additional financial institutions and to seek specialist financial advice to maximise returns whilst safeguarding public funds.

Members thanked the Clerk, Deputy Clerk and supporting staff for the work undertaken in managing the Council's finances.

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RESOLVED that the Internal Audit Report 2025/26 and accompanying recommendations be received and noted, and that the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer progress the recommendations and report back to Council on their implementation as appropriate.

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The Meeting concluded at 6.07 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 10 November, 2026 adopted by the Council.