

21 June, 2023

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 82 – 88

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, 21 June, 2023 at 4.55 p.m.

Present: Cllr. R. E. Evans (Chairman)

Cllrs.

S. R. Bowen	S. N. Lewis
D. M. Cundy	J. S. Phillips
A. Evans	W. E. Skinner
N. Evans	A. G. Stephens
J. P. Hart	B. M. Williams

82. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr. S. M. T. Ford.

83. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. J. P. Hart declared a personal interest in Minute No. 85 as he was a licence holder currently operating a licenced premise at the Bryn and Trallwm Club.

84. FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED that Cllrs. R. E. Evans (Chairman of Committee), S. N. Lewis (Leader of Council), J. S. Phillips (Chairman of Council), S. R. Bowen, A. Evans, N. Evans, J. P. Hart and B. M. Williams be appointed to serve on the working group.

85. REVIEW OF LICENSING POLICY AND CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Cllr. J. P. Hart declared a personal interest in the following item as he was a licence holder currently operating a licenced premises at the Bryn and Trallwm Club.

Members considered a consultation document from the Licensing Lead, Department for Communities, Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC) informing of a review that was being undertaken of its Licensing Policy which outlined the authority's approach to licensing premises, clubs, temporary events and personal licences.

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The current licensing policy was adopted by the authority in March 2021 following consultation which included a review of the existing Cumulative Impact Assessments for Lammas Street, Carmarthen and Station Road, Llanelli. The authority must undertake a full review every three years to ensure that they were still appropriate.

Members were informed as part of this particular consultation, views were also sought about the adoption of a further cumulative impact assessment for Nott Square, King Street and Queen Street, Carmarthen.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that in noting the current review arrangements because there was no direct impact on the council's administrative area, the consultation questionnaire be circulated to all members to complete on an individual basis should they wish.

86. 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.

87. LLANELLI AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA MONITORING

Further to Minute No. 459 (19 April, 2023, refers), members considered an opportunity to work in partnership with Llanelli Town Council to jointly fund a 12 month air quality monitoring proposal of the Llanelli Air Quality Management Area to be delivered through a case study initiative performed by a local technical and innovation company known as Vindico.

The proposal entailed real-time air quality monitoring in the Llanelli Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). Llanelli had one of the largest AQMAs in Wales, stretching almost two miles between Pwll and Felinfoel. Data was provided to members showing the ranked raw annual average 2019 (Nitrogen Dioxide) NO₂ concentrations at the eight most polluted sites within the Llanelli AQMA.

The data showed that all eight sites referenced in the proposal document were above the permitted legal annual average threshold level of 40 µg/m³. An interim average target of 30 µg/m³ was recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) while countries work towards achieving new standards. The Welsh Government was currently reviewing legislation based on the WHO guidelines in readiness for a Clean Air Act anticipated in 2024. Hourly data recorded over a 12 month period would permit analysis to help plan and deliver new mitigation strategies to reduce air pollution. The data could also help trace the impacts and health effects on air pollution over the same time period.

Further benefits of monitoring data included helping raise public awareness about air pollution and its health effects and to encourage individuals and communities to take action to reduce pollution.

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During the discussion, comment was made about Carmarthenshire County Council's current inconsistent monitoring arrangements combined with its lack of power and resources to undertake this type of proactive undertaking consistently. Members felt it was important that some positive action should be taken once and for all to combat the ongoing pollution issues being experienced by residents along the AQMA corridor. Moreover, while the current proposal provided by Vindico was premised on testing a minimum of the top four locations within the AQMA out of the eight locations for NO₂ concentrations highlighted in the proposal, members opined that all eight locations should be included in the case study. While this was likely to raise the cost of the exercise, it was important to ensure equitable coverage of data sampling throughout the AQMA. Furthermore, for the case study to carry more impact that Professor Lewis of Vindico ought to present the case study to Welsh Government following completion of the exercise, given he was the Swansea University, Clean Air Programme Regional champion for Wales and it was

RESOLVED that it be agreed in principle, to work in partnership with Llanelli Town Council to jointly fund a 12 month air quality monitoring case study proposal by commissioning Vindico to undertake the work based on an initial fee quotation of £14,650 plus VAT for data sampling the top four Nitrogen Dioxide sites identified in the AQMA, but furthermore, the possibility of including all eight sites in the case study be also ascertained and pursued as the council's general preference with the associated additional costs being apportioned equally between both councils. This was on the understanding that Llanelli Town Council agreed to split the costs on a 50/50 basis to extend the case study accordingly and following further discussion with Vindico.

88. STAFFING MATTERS

Members considered the report of the Technical and General Operations Manager informing of staffing matters.

RESOLVED that the report referenced 06:2023 be accepted.

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The meeting concluded at 5.34 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 11 July, 2023 adopted by the Council.