

25 April, 2024

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 466 – 469

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 April, 2024, at 4.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr. N. A. Stephens (Vice Chairman (in the Chair))

Cllrs.

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| S. R. Bowen | S. N Lewis |
| T. M Donoghue | J. S. Phillips |

Absent: S. K. Nurse.

466. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. A. Evans, N Evans and B. M. Williams.

467. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

468. JOBS GROWTH WALES +

(1) CONTRACTS 2024/25

(i) ITEC CONTRACT VALUE AND PROFILE

(ii) COLEG SIR GAR

Members considered an email notification from Itec Training Solutions Ltd informing of the contract value for the fiscal year 2024/25. The Finance Manager stated the contract value awarded was pleasingly more than anticipated when compared against the contract value for 2023/24.

Members were informed that in March 2024 there were forty three learners on programme and maintaining this number on a monthly basis over the year ahead would be beneficial. However, the actual profile over the course of the year ahead was likely to range on average between 46 and 52 learners on programme at any given time. Moreover, the new partnership entered into with Coleg Sir Gar for in centre delivery of some its cohort of learners enrolled on the 'Engagement' pathway of the programme should help the training department achieve its profile target for the contract value allocated by Itec.

25 April, 2024

The Finance Manager explained that the partnership with Coleg Sir Gar would be regulated by a service level agreement and a meeting had been held with college representatives to discuss the new contract year. A further operational meeting was planned to take place soon. The intake of learners from the college, up to the end of March 2024 was very positive, with eight learners being registered with the training department. The service level agreement did not have a contract value but instead was left open ended. This suited both parties and allowed for some latitude in looking to develop the partnership over the year ahead.

(2) PROGRAMME UPDATE

Members received a verbal programme update from the Administrative Officer on the current delivery of the Itec contract and the Coleg Sir Gar partnership. Between the Llanelli and Carmarthen training centres there were fifty four learners currently on programme. An outline was given of the aims of the programme including the support afforded to the young to gain employment; to seek further education or to enter into apprenticeships.

The Administration Officer expanded on positive feedback received from an employer on a learner who had been placed with them for work experience. Further new placements had been sourced, along with this the NHS attended at Vauxhall to give a presentation on jobs and opportunities within the Heath Service.

Following discussion, the staff were thanked for the update, and it was

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

469. APPRENTICESHIPS

(1) STATEMENT OF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Members received the strategic priorities for tertiary education and research and innovation which was published by the Welsh Ministers as required under section 13 of the Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Act 2022 (“the Act”).

The Commission for Tertiary Education and Research (“the Commission”) was required to prepare a strategic plan setting out how it would address certain priorities and how it would discharge the strategic duties given to it under the Act. In preparing the plan, the Commission must consult such persons as it would consider appropriate and the plan must be submitted to the Welsh Ministers for approval. The Commission was under a duty to publish its approved plan and take all reasonable steps to implement it.

The strategic priority was to develop a tertiary system that prepared learners for a changing economy where all could acquire the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in life and work.

25 April, 2024

A factsheet explaining how the establishment of the commission would affect apprenticeships was also presented to members. The Finance Manager stated while the commission would be responsible for the funding, oversight, quality and regulation of all tertiary education in Wales, the Welsh Government would retain the Jobs Growth Wales+ programme under its stewardship for the time being. Accordingly the contract for future delivery of the programme was likely to be put out to tender once again on 31 July, 2025 but this could be extended by an additional 12 months or more by Welsh Government if factors so determine.

(2) APPRENTICESHIP CONTRACTS VALUE 2024/25

Members were informed that the Apprenticeship academic year ran from August to July and that pleasingly there had been a 3.5% framework uplift confirmed by Welsh Government to take effect from August 2024. Moreover, following successful lobbying of Welsh Government by employers it had been agreed to carry forward any underspend from the current academic year into the 2024/2025 academic year. This was very positive and demonstrated the importance attached to encouraging apprenticeship opportunities by Welsh Government.

(3) LEARNER OUTCOME REPORT DATA 2022/23

The Finance Manager presented members with the final statistics for Apprenticeship performance as published by Welsh Government. These statistics were published in the spring, following the academic year.

There were ten primary training providers spread across Wales, and the training department worked in partnership with Skills Academy Wales (SAW) to deliver apprenticeships. The data showed how SAW had performed against the national comparator targets for each of the three apprenticeship levels namely: Foundation Apprenticeship; Apprenticeships; Higher Apprenticeships, gaining third; third and seventh placings respectively. Overall SAW achieved a 72% score, which was 3% higher than the national comparator benchmark.

(4) PERSONAL LEARNING ACCOUNTS (PLA)

Members received an update from the Apprenticeship Manager outlining PLA value along with the news that PLA had been approved for standalone qualification. Therefore learners did no longer needed to complete an NVQ as part of the PLA course work going forward. This was good news as it should encourage more learners to participate in training to obtain the various road transport licences on offer and to complete the training more quickly. Members were informed that Neath Port Talbot College had up to £120,000 of funding available for 35 eligible individuals between April and July 2024. To date the training department had three learners on programme but the Apprenticeship Manager stated that Welsh Government through its PLA intervention fund was exclusively offering free LGV training to direct employees of Tata Steel UK Ltd. The department had agreed to two visits in May 2024 to Tata Steel, Port Talbot to promote and recruit candidates. There was likely to be a high level of interest and take up by employees.

25 April, 2024

(5) LOGISTICS ASSESSOR PRESENTATION

Members received an informative PowerPoint presentation on the role performed by the Logistics Assessor and the range of responsibilities performed by the Logistics team in delivering apprenticeships.

A question and answer session ensued during which members congratulated the Logistics Assessor for his presentation, and then proceeded to thank all staff within the training department for their hard work and achievements. Following which it was

RESOLVED that the information presented in items (1) to (5) respectively be noted.

.....

The Meeting concluded at 5.20 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 16 May, 2024 adopted by the Council.