

16 October, 2024

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 190 – 195

At a Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, and via remote attendance on Wednesday, 16 October, 2024, at 4.45 p.m.

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

Cllrs.

D. M. Cundy	S. M. T. Ford
M. V. Davies	S. N. Lewis
A. Evans	W. E. Skinner
N. Evans	A. G. Stephens

Absent: S. R. Bowen, J. P. Hart, B. M. Williams

190. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

191. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

**192. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES
DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26**

Members were circulated with the draft Annual Report 2025/2026 received from the Chairman, Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW). In accordance with the requirements of Section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, the IRPW's draft annual report set out proposals for member allowances which would take effect for the financial year commencing in 2025.

Members' attention was drawn to Determination 7 of the report advising that the Independent Remuneration Panel had recommended that councils continue to make mandatory payments for extra costs of working from home and payments of office consumables.

Determination 7 advised all councils must pay their members £156 a year towards the extra household expenses (including heating, lighting, power and broadband) for working from home (equivalent to £3 a week).

16 October, 2024

Determination 7 also proposed that councils must either pay members £52 a year for the cost of office consumables required to carry out their role, or alternatively councils must enable members to claim full reimbursement for the cost of their office consumables. It was a matter for every council to make and record a policy decision in respect of when and how the payments were made. The policy should also state whether and how to recover any payments made to a member who leaves or changes their role during the financial year.

Attention was drawn to the report table which set out the level of payments to community and town councils. Members were informed the council was categorised in group 1 of the table because its electorate was over 14,000. Moreover, there were no planned changes to the type and level of payments. Therefore all other Determinations from the Panel's final report in relation to 2024/25 were valid and should continue to be applied in 2025/26.

The clerk informed members that following an independent ten-year review of the Panel in 2021, the panel's functions would transfer over to the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru on 1 April, 2025. This was as a result of the Elections and Elected Bodies (Wales) Act being passed in July 2024.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the draft annual report determinations be noted for budget preparation purposes for the forthcoming financial year and in anticipation of receiving the final annual report in February 2025.

**193. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING STATIONS
NOTICE OF CONCLUSION**

Further to Minute No. 377 (21 February, 2024 refers), members received correspondence from the Electoral Services Manager, Carmarthenshire County Council giving notice that Carmarthenshire County Council had concluded its review into polling districts and polling places.

The polling districts and polling place designations had been published and could be viewed in detail by visiting the offices of Electoral Services at Block 4, Parc Myrddin, Richmond Terrace, Carmarthen.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

194. 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.

16 October, 2024

195. STAFFING MATTERS

Members considered the Deputy Clerk's report informing of staffing matters.

RESOLVED that the report referenced 10:2024 be accepted.

.....

The meeting concluded at 5.00 p.m.

.....