

COUNTY COUNCIL

8TH JULY 2015

PRESENT: Councillor P. Hughes Griffiths [Chair];

Councillors:

S.M. Allen	T. Devichand	A.W. Jones	L.M. Stephens
D.J.R. Bartlett	J.S. Edmunds	G.O. Jones	T. Theophilus
S.M. Caiach	P.M. Edwards	H.I. Jones	E.G. Thomas
J.M. Charles	D.C. Evans	T.J. Jones	G.B. Thomas
A.P. Cooper	H.A.L. Evans	A. Lenny	M.K. Thomas
A. Davies	W.J.W. Evans	M.J.A. Lewis	S.E. Thomas
D.B. Davies	W.T. Evans	A.G. Morgan	W.G. Thomas
G. Davies	A.D. Harries	J. Owen	J. Tremlett
J.A. Davies	J.K. Howell	P.A. Palmer	J. Williams
T. Davies	A. James	D. Price	J.E. Williams
T.T. Davies	J.D. James	D.W.H. Richards	J.S. Williams
W.K. Davies	D.M. Jenkins	B.A.L. Roberts	
W.R.A. Davies	J.P. Jenkins	A.D.T. Speake	

Also Present:

Mr. M. James – Chief Executive;

Mr J. Morgan – Director of Communities;

Ms. W. Walters – Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration and Policy);

Mr C. Moore – Head of Financial Services;

Mr. G. Morgans – Head of Education Services;

Mr. R. Edgecombe – Legal Services Manager;

Mr. L. Walters - Senior Business Support Manager [Social Care];

Mr. M.S. Davies – Democratic Services Officer.

(Council Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen: 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon.)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T. Bowen, C.A. Campbell, D.M. Cundy, I.W. Davies, S.L. Davies, E. Dole, L.D. Evans, M. Gravell, C.P. Higgins, W.G. Hopkins, P.M. Hughes, I.J. Jackson, P.E.M. Jones, W.J. Lemon, D.J.R. Llewellyn, K. Madge, S. Matthews, E. Morgan*, H. Shepardson, G. Thomas, J. Thomas, K.P. Thomas and D.E. Williams.

[*Representing the Chair and Council at a Royal visit in Llandovery.]

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2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

There were no declarations of personal interest.

3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER MATTERS

- The Chair congratulated Councillor Glynog Davies on his appointment as Vice-Chairman of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority;
- The Chair congratulated Councillor Edward Thomas, who had been awarded a BA Honours degree in History at Swansea University;
- The Chair welcomed and congratulated Sarah Kelleher from Coedcae Comprehensive School who had won the Age 15-18 Video Report category of the Young Reporters for The Environment competition promoted by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) which operated in 27 countries throughout the world. In Wales the programme was managed by Keep Wales Tidy. Members viewed Sarah's winning film following which the Chair presented her with a book on behalf of the Council;
- Congratulations were extended to the Trading Standards Team which had been awarded the prize for Best Local Authority Exhibitor at the recent Chartered Trading Standards Institute National conference. The award had been voted for by the President of the Institute, Baroness Christine Crawley, and Chair, Mark McGinty, who had commended the team for its innovative and engaging financial education website, Money Wise;
- Congratulations were extended to Councillor Hazel Evans following the birth of her grandson Rhys;
- Reference was made to Richard Cheney from Newcastle Emlyn who had cycled from his home to Portsmouth in aid of research into miscarriages and had collected over £1,200.00 to date.

4. COUNCIL MINUTES

4.1. 9TH JUNE 2015

Cllr. T. Davies stated that he had declared an interest prior to Dr. Rosie Plummer's presentation on the National Botanic Garden of Wales [Minute 5], as he was a member of the Garden.

RESOLVED, subject to the inclusion of the above, that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 9th June, 2015 be signed as a correct record.

4.2. 17TH JUNE 2015

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 17th June, 2015 be signed as a correct record.

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5. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

5.1. QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR J. WILLIAMS TO COUNCILLOR M. GRAVELL — EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND LEISURE

“In light of the recent articles in the papers and the concern within the local community regarding our finest asset Park Howard can the Executive Board Member for Regeneration and Leisure assure us that as a council we will protect this remarkable park and strive to keep it in public ownership?”

As Cllr. Gravell was not present due to personal circumstances Cllr. Williams was informed that she would be provided with a written response at the earliest opportunity. It was agreed that the response be circulated to all Members.

5.2. QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR J. D. JAMES TO COUNCILLOR H.A.L. EVANS — EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR TECHNICAL SERVICES

“At Full Council on 15th April this year, it was resolved to support the Motion submitted by Cllr. John Jenkins requesting this Council to show support for local businesses and traders in Llanelli Town Centre by requesting the Executive Board to consider implementing a 6 month trial of 2 hours free parking in Council car parks in Llanelli Town Centre.

In the ensuing debate that followed the submission of the Motion, it was felt by many members that traders and businesses in Llanelli were suffering due to the decrease in footfall to the town and that urgent and immediate intervention was required.

We are now in to the second week of July and the businesses and traders in Llanelli are none the wiser to whether the Executive Board will also support Councillor Jenkins’ Motion.

In light of the fact that the Executive Board has yet to make a decision on whether to support the Motion or not, can the Executive Board Member inform this Council as to when this motion, that is supported by Full Council, will be considered by the Executive Board?”

Response by Councillor H.A.L. Evans, Executive Board Member for Technical Services:-

“September.”

It was moved and seconded that Corporate Procedure Rule 22.1 be suspended to allow the questioner to ask a supplementary question to his question placed on notice. Following a vote, the motion was carried.

RESOLVED that Corporate Procedure Rule 22.1 be suspended to allow the questioner to ask a supplementary question to his question placed on notice.

“I am deeply disappointed at this delay on an issue that was felt in April to be an urgent matter that needed immediate intervention. Taking into

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consideration the fact that the Executive Board Member for Technical Services and seven current Board Members voted for this motion will she take the lead on this issue, encouraging her colleagues on the Executive Board not only to agree to the motion but to put it in place with immediate effect by also rolling out this pilot scheme to include the other towns in Carmarthenshire that have car parking charges, also, to revisit the whole issue of Sunday and evening charges, and if not why?"

Response by Councillor H.A.L. Evans, Executive Board Member for Technical Services:-

Thank you for your supplementary question. I have asked for a full report to be presented to the Executive Board which will happen in September. Also, the Environment and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee has asked to set up a task and finish group to look into the car parking in Carmarthenshire and I will give them my full support."

6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

7. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16

Cllr. D.M. Jenkins, Executive Board Member for Resources and Deputy Leader, presented the Leader of the Council's Forward Work Programme for 2015/16 in his absence and highlighted the key priorities which were:

- Making the Council the most open and transparent Council in Wales;
- Ensuring Carmarthenshire secures external funding from Welsh Government, the European Union and other sources to support jobs and growth in the local economy;
- Ensure the Council's community based services are fit for purpose for future need and delivery;
- Ensuring the Council makes the best use of its resources;
- Ensuring continued progress with modernising educational facilities and curriculum within the county;
- Developing the Council's future approach to delivering a sustainable waste service to meet future targets
- Strengthen the position of the Welsh language in the County.

RESOLVED that the Leader of the Council's Forward Work Programme for 2015/16 be noted.

8. EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION – ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATUTORY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SOCIAL CARE SERVICES IN CARMARTHENSHIRE 2014/15

Council was informed that the Executive Board, at its meeting held on the 15th June, 2015 (Minute 3 refers), had considered the sixth annual report produced

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by the Director of Social Services on the effectiveness of Social Care Services within the county which set out the progress made on areas identified for improvement in last year's report and highlighted those areas that were to be developed in the current year.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendation of the Executive Board be accepted.

Concern was expressed that there was no reference in the report to future funding cuts and legal changes regarding support for carers and that there appeared to be a change in direction by Welsh Government towards those who provide caring arrangements. In response it was stressed that the Annual Report related to the Authority's service rather than any proposals by Welsh Government. The Authority needed to ensure, however, that vulnerable carers were offered full support and this needed to be separated from support offered to service users.

In response to a query as to the benefits of establishing a social enterprise or a local authority arms length company to deliver social services members were reminded that it was already the case that 80% of the care that was provided in the County was Council-funded but delivered by the private sector. It was the case that the Authority needed to ensure that such services were provided at the standard it would expect and much work was being done in terms of commissioning and contracting arrangements and quality assurance processes. As the Authority had reduced its in-house provision substantially over recent years, particularly in the areas of domiciliary and residential care, consideration needed to be given to future provision and it was anticipated that a report would be presented on the issue in due course.

RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Executive Board be adopted:-

“that the Annual report of the Statutory Director of Social Services on the effectiveness of Social Care Services in Carmarthenshire 2014/15 be approved.”

9. EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION – MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME - PROPOSED DISCONTINUATION OF COPPERWORKS INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL AND LAKEFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL ESTABLISH A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Council was informed that the Executive Board, at its meeting held on the 15th June, 2015 (Minute 4 refers), had considered a report on a proposal to discontinue Copperworks Infant & Nursery School and Lakefield Primary School.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendation of the Executive Board be accepted.

In response to a concern regarding the lack of a decision on the proposed access to the new school Council was advised that whilst discussions were still ongoing with Welsh Government regarding funding this would not hold up the scheme's progress.

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RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Executive Board be adopted:-

“that the proposal to discontinue Copperworks Infant & Nursery School and Lakefield Primary School be proceeded with and a Statutory Notice be published to implement the proposal.”

10. EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION – INTRODUCTION OF A NEW CHARGE FOR A PLACEMENT INTO A FLEXI-BED IN A CARE HOME

Council was informed that the Executive Board, at its meeting held on the 15th June, 2015 (Minute 6 refers), had considered a report on a proposal to amend the current policy on charging for residents placed into a care home by introducing a charge for placement into designated flexi-beds (which facilitated hospital discharge and prevented hospital admission) in care homes from the first day of admission.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations of the Executive Board be accepted.

The following amendment to the Motion was proposed by Councillor B.A.L. Roberts:-

‘That the report considered by the Executive Board, together with the Board’s recommendations, be referred to the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee for consideration.’

The Amendment was duly seconded.

A number of statements were made in support of the Amendment.

Following a requisition by more than ten members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.4 a recorded vote was taken with the votes cast being as follows:-

For the Amendment (50)

Councillors S.M. Allen, D.J.R. Bartlett, S.M. Caiach, A.P. Cooper, A. Davies, D.B. Davies, G. Davies, J. A. Davies, T. Davies, W.K. Davies, W.R.A. Davies, T.T. Defis, T. Devichand, J.S. Edmunds, P.M. Edwards, D.C. Evans, H.A.L. Evans, W.J.W. Evans, W.T. Evans, A.D. Harries, J.K. Howell, P. Hughes Griffiths, A. James, J.D. James, D.M. Jenkins, J.P. Jenkins, A.W. Jones, G.O. Jones, H.I. Jones, T.J. Jones, A. Lenny, M.J.A. Lewis, A.G. Morgan, J. Owen, P.A. Palmer, D. Price, D.W. H. Richards, B.A.L. Roberts, A.D.T. Speake, L.M. Stephens, T. Theophilus, E.G. Thomas, G. B. Thomas, M.K. Thomas, S.E. Thomas, W.G. Thomas, J. Tremlett, J. Williams, J.E. Williams and J.S. Williams.

Against the Amendment (0)

Abstention (0)

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UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Amendment to the Motion be supported.

Council thereupon proceeded to vote on the Substantive Motion.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Substantive Motion be adopted and that the report considered by the Executive Board, together with the Board's recommendations, be referred to the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

11. EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION – THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15 AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2015/16

Council was informed that the Executive Board, at its meeting held on the 15th June, 2015 (Minute 8 refers), had considered the Council's Annual Report 2014/15 and Improvement Plan 2015/16 which provided information about the Authority's services and how it was performing.

The success of the TIC project and the savings achieved through its work with various departments was highlighted.

Reference was made to the fact that the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee should be mindful of the services and facilities private care homes might not provide which previously had been provided by the Authority's care homes. It was also commented that the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee, in considering the proposal to introduce a flexi-bed charge [Minute 10 above refers], should be cognizant of the fact that the Authority was not meeting its 100 days target for undertaking Disabled Facilities Grant adaptations.

The Chief Executive responded to a concern regarding the lack of any reference to linguistic ability in two recent adverts for Director posts and stated that the adverts in question had been endorsed by Council at its meeting on the 20th May 2015.

Concern was expressed over the future of S4C in light of proposed cuts to the funding of the BBC which itself provided 90% of S4C's budget. It was commented that the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport considered that it was reasonable to expect S4C to make the same percentage savings as the BBC.

RESOLVED

11.1. that the following recommendation of the Executive Board be adopted:-
“that the Council's Annual Report for 2014/15 and Improvement Plan 2015/16 be approved.”;

11.2. that the Council's concerns over possible cuts in S4C's funding be conveyed to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

12. EXECUTIVE BOARD – 15TH JUNE 2015

RESOLVED that the report of the above meeting be received.

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CHAIR

DATE