

Annual Report for Councillor Peter Rees, (under the Local Government Measure 2011) for Municipal Year 2015-16

Roles and Responsibilities

I am the Deputy Leader of the Council. This position affords to me strategic overview of Procurement, Policy & Resources, I.T, Democratic Services and Financial matters in the County Borough.

I am Cabinet Member for Education and the Poverty /Equalities spokesperson. This role continues to be more relevant because of the continued Welfare Reforms imposed by Central Government. With the introduction of Universal Credit, it will be even more crucial to monitor the effects on the most vulnerable in our communities.

Along with the Director of Education, a road show in the Primary schools and Comprehensive school in the Port Talbot area of the County Borough was undertaken. We have met with Schools Councils, parents, Governors and staff. As in previous years my role has been to further promote and encourage full attendance at schools to improve our position with ESTYN league tables.

I am the representative on the Swansea Pensions Panel and we were awarded full membership after several years of observer status. Again, the changes to legislation in this area makes this position even more important. I attended the LGA Pensions Conference in Cardiff and will undertake further seminar attendances this year.

I am the Chairperson of two Governing Bodies in schools namely Cefn Saeson Comprehensive and Crynallt Primary School. I represent the Authority on the Neath Town Consortium Committee.

I am an observer on the Children's Rights Unit in Neath Port Talbot.

I am Chairman of WLGA Joint Committee for Wales. I attend WLGA Committee Meetings.

I am also the WLGA spokesperson for Employment and I attend LGA and NARE meetings in London in this capacity.

I represent the Authority on the Police and Crime Commission and I have full attendance at all the meetings.

Community Activities

I chair the PACT meetings in the Neath South Ward.

I represent the Ward on the Community First Cluster Group.

I have attended the Neath Town Consortium Meetings to promote Neath as a vibrant trading centre.

I am Secretary to the Neath South & East Labour Party Ward.

Along with my Ward colleague we hold monthly surgeries for constituents where issues affecting our constituents are noted and taken up with the relevant authorities.

A newsletter is produced twice yearly and it is distributed personally throughout the South Ward and our contact details are available to all our constituents on a 24/7 basis.

Initiatives and Special Activities

Crynallt Primary School, St Joseph's Primary School and Cefn Saeson Comprehensive benefitted from the Section 106 Agreement monies we obtained from the building of the Tesco store in Neath South. Many local voluntary groups also received benefit from this development as well. The Tesco store continues to be well used.

The establishment of the 50+ Club for senior citizens was started in Cimla by my early involvement and procurement of funds. This continues to go from strength to strength. I am pleased to confirm that it is still successful.

The transfer of Tonmawr Junior School into Crynallt Primary School was very successful.

I have attempted to secure a replacement bus service for residents in the Cimla Crescent area of my ward following the curtailment of the service by South Wales Transport. We are still pursuing this goal.

Learning and Development

I have attended **all** the seminars arranged by the Council. I have been given the role of appraising the personal development of my colleagues under the Wales Measure 2011. This I have carried out again this year.

I have undertaken Governor training throughout the academic year. I have also attended the quarterly governor/Director of Education sessions.

Other Activities/Interests

I am a patron of Neath Little Theatre. My leisure interests are listening to music (Rock'n'Roll and Country & Western) Reading, gardening and enjoying the company of my two grand daughters . I am passionate about politics and am a lifelong member of the Labour Party.