

SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2017 AT SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS

43. PRESENT:

Councillor	Left	Authority
D T Davies (Chair)		Caerphilly
S Bradwick (Deputy Chair)		Rhondda Cynon Taff
D Ali		Cardiff
D Davies		Newport
P Drake		Vale of Glamorgan
E Galsworthy		Merthyr Tydfil
C Hawker		Caerphilly
K Hyde		Cardiff
A Jones		Torfaen
S J Jones		Rhondda Cynon Taff
B Morgan		Rhondda Cynon Taff
S Pickering		Rhondda Cynon Taff
M Powell		Monmouthshire
P Seabourne		Torfaen
V Smith		Monmouthshire
K Critchley		Newport
C James		Bridgend
J Morgan		Blaenau

APOLOGIES

G Philips	Cardiff
C Smith	Bridgend
R McKerlich	Cardiff

ABSENT:

C Elsbury	Caerphilly
E Hacker	Vale of Glamorgan
<i>Vacancy</i>	<i>Cardiff</i>

OFFICERS PRESENT:- CFO H Jakeway, DCO S Chapman – Monitoring Officer, ACO P Haynes – Director of People Services, ACFO A Thomas – Director of Service Delivery, ACO R Prendergast – Director of Technical Services, Mr C Barton – Treasurer, Mr C Powell – Deputy Monitoring Officer, Mrs S Watkins – National Issues Committee Co-ordinator, SM J Jones – Staff Officer, Ms C Farrell – University of Glamorgan.

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Each Member declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in each agenda item which affected their Authority.

45. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair informed Members that since his recent surgery, Cllr McKerlich has had a nasty fall and sustained a break to his leg. The Chair took the opportunity to wish him a speedy recovery.

The Chair informed Members that on Wednesday 1st February he met with Carl Sargent our Cabinet Secretary to discuss the future of Fire Authorities, our finance and the National Issues Committee and further advised that the Deputy Chief Officer will be covering some of this in a paper later in our agenda. South Wales Fire & Rescue Service will be hosting the Minister at the White Water Centre and at Abertillery on Monday 27 February.

The Chair informed Members that he will be attending the official opening of Abertillery Combined Emergency Services Station, later today, this is the first station in South Wales that houses ourselves, Welsh Ambulance Service and Gwent Police

Finally, as this is the last Fire Authority meeting before the Local Government Elections on 4th May and for some Members, it will be their last Fire Authority meeting the Chair took the opportunity to thank both Members and Officers for their time and commitment over the last term. Various retiring Members also addressed the Authority.

46. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The following minutes were received and accepted as a true record of proceedings:-

- HR & Equalities meeting held on 17 October 2016
- Fire & Rescue Authority meeting held on 19 December 2016

47. UPDATE ON ACTIONS

The Deputy Chief Officer informed Members that the caterers have confirmed that they will be withdrawing at the end of the financial year.

48. REPORTS FOR DECISION

48.1 PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TARGETS 2017/18

The ACO Service Delivery presented a report for Members to consider the proposed Performance Indicator Targets for 2017-2018.

RESOLVED THAT

- 48.1.1 Members endorsed the Performance Indicator Targets proposed for 2017/18.
- 48.1.2 Members approved its publication onto the SWFRS internet site.

48.2 OPERATION ATEGOL

ACO Technical Services informed Members of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 which establishes duties for specified “Category 1 responders” which places the duty on Fire & Rescue Authorities to assess, plan and prepare for impacts that may affect the business continuity of service delivery. One foreseeable business continuity event is the loss of staff. Operation Ategol is the Service’s plan to respond to industrial action. Recent years have seen a trade dispute between the Government and the Fire Brigades Union over pension changes and this dispute remains live.

Recent changes to the Defence Fire Risk Management Organisation mean that they can no longer commit to assisting the Authority in times of industrial action. Also, the employment arrangements of the current cohort of Auxiliary Firefighters requires refreshing to ensure continued suitability and compliance with any changed of legislation or guidance.

Approval was sought to ensure that the remaining Auxiliary Firefighter’s are recognised as part of the Service’s permanent establishment. In addition, a part time Auxiliary Manager is appointed and resilience contracts awarded to suitable candidates. All changes will be delivered without exceeding the £350,000 budget allocated.

RESOLVED THAT

- 48.2.1 Members approved the appointment of the Auxiliary firefighters.
- 48.2.2 Members approved the appointment of an Auxiliary Manager.
- 48.2.3 Members approved the issue of ‘resilience contracts’.

48.3 LOCALISM ACT 2011 – PAY POLICY STATEMENT

The ACO People Services informed Members that the Localism Act which came into being in November 2011 required South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority to publish a Pay Policy Statement each financial year that provided information for the following financial year.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to endorse South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority's Pay Policy Statement for re-publication on 31 March 2017.

48.4 REPORT ON RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT IMPROVEMENT PLAN – “HOW DID WE DO IN 2015-16” AND PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR 2017-2018

The Deputy Monitoring Officer requested Members consideration of the responses received during the consultation process.

RESOLVED THAT

- 48.4.1 Members approved the Strategic Themes and Priority Actions detailed in Appendix A
- 48.4.2 Members noted the consultation responses detailed in Appendix B

48.5 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2017/18

The Treasurer provided Members with the Treasury Management Strategy, policies and indicators for approval as required by statute.

RESOLVED THAT

- 48.5.1 Members agreed to approve the appended strategies and indicators relating to Treasury Management and Capital Financing.
- 48.5.2 Members agreed to adopt the Minimum Revenue Provision policy.
- 48.5.3 Members gave approval to the Treasurer to update the strategies and policies in line with changing economic forecasts and information as necessary throughout the year.

48.6 REPORT ON END OF LIFE VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT DISPOSALS

The Director of Technical Services informed Members with options for the disposal of fire appliances and other equipment.

RESOLVED THAT

- 48.6.1 Members agreed that to negate the risk of end of life appliances finding their way to terrorist organisations Service vehicles are securely disposed of through Fire Aid
- 48.6.2 Members agreed that suitable redundant equipment is disposed of through Fire Aid.

48.7 DELEGATED POWERS

The Deputy Chief Officer requested Members delegate powers to the Chief Fire Officer and Deputy Chief Officer to ensure urgent or due process items of business continue to be addressed in the run up to, and following, the Local Government Elections in May 2017, and pending the first meeting of the new Fire and Rescue Authority following the 2017 Annual General Meeting (AGM). It was also requested these delegations be put in place to cover future elections.

RESOLVED THAT

- 48.7.1 Members agreed that between the last Fire and Rescue Authority meeting of the municipal year and the first meeting of the Fire and Rescue Authority after the AGM, the Chief Fire Officer and the Deputy Chief Officer be given delegated powers to make decisions upon any matters in the interests of the Fire and Rescue Authority which, for reasons of urgency or due process, cannot wait until the first meeting of the Fire and Rescue Authority following the AGM, following consultation with appropriate officers and, following the AGM, the Chairperson and/or Deputy Chairperson
- 48.7.2 Members agreed that decisions taken under the delegated powers be recorded by the Deputy Chief Officer and reported to the first meeting of the Fire and Rescue Authority following the AGM.

48.8 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS – SCHEME OF DELEGATIONS

The Deputy Chief Officer reported on the recommendations of the Members' Standing Orders Working Group and the proposed amendments to the Authority's Scheme of Delegations.

RESOLVED THAT

The Members approved the amendments to the Scheme of Delegations and agreed to their implementation with immediate effect.

48.9 WHITE PAPER – REFORMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT: RESILIENT AND RENEWED

The Deputy Chief Officer outlined the recent consultation document issued by the Welsh Government on reforms to Local Government and the proposed further consultation due to be issued on new funding and governance frameworks for Fire and Rescue Authority's in Wales.

RESOLVED THAT

- 48.9.1 Members provided their initial views on the White Paper and its impact on the Fire and Rescue Service and Fire and Rescue Authority
- 48.9.2 Members resolved that the Authority's response to the White Paper is prepared in consultation with the Chairman of the Authority and submitted by the 11 April 2017
- 48.9.3 Members agreed should a further consultation document be issued on the future funding and governance framework of the Fire and Rescue Authority's in Wales for submission prior to the first meeting of the new Fire Authority, the Authority's response be prepared in consultation with the Chairman of the Authority having first provided Members with an opportunity to provide views on the proposals

49. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

49.1 FIRE CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS

The Chief Fire Officer reported on the progress made in all areas of the South and Mid and West Wales Joint Public Centre Project. The Site Acceptance Testing (SAT) commenced in November 2016 and there have been notable successes in load testing, resilience arrangements and connectivity with fire stations and mobile data terminals in fire appliances. However, due to a number of software related issues, further testing will be carried out prior to completion of SAT.

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted the progress of the Joint Public Service Centre Project.

49.2 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HR & EQUALITIES COMMITTEE

The Chairperson of the HR & Equalities Committee informed Members of the work that the HR & Equalities Committee has undertaken during the Municipal year 2016/17.

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted the work undertaken by the HR & Equalities Committee

49.3 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORK OF SOUTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY LOCAL PENSION BOARD

The Chairperson of the Local Pension Board informed Members of the work that the South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority Local Pension Board has undertaken during the Municipal Year 2016/17.

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted the work undertaken by South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority Local Pension Board.

49.4 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE FINANCE, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE & ITS WORKING GROUP DURING 2016/17

The Chairperson of the FAPM Committee informed the Members of the work of the Finance, Audit and Performance Management Committee and its Working Group for the Municipal Year 2016/17.

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted the work undertaken by the Finance, Audit and Performance Management Committee and its Working Group.

49.5 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Deputy Chief Officer presented the Forward Work Programme for 2016/2017.

RESOLVED THAT

Members accepted the Forward Work Programme for 2016/2017.

50. TO CONSIDER ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT (PART 1)

There were no urgent report(s) (Part 1) for Members of the Fire & Rescue Authority to consider.