

SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS

16. PRESENT:

Councillor	Authority
D Ali	Cardiff
S Bradwick	Rhondda Cynon Taff
L Brown	Monmouth
K Critchley	Newport
R Crowley	Vale of Glamorgan
D T Davies	Caerphilly
C Elsbury	Caerphilly
S Evans	Torfaen
A Hussey	Caerphilly
H Joyce	Cardiff
D Naughton	Cardiff
M Phillips	Cardiff
S Pickering	Rhondda Cynon Taff
A Roberts	Rhondda Cynon Taff
C Smith	Bridgend
V Smith	Monmouth
G Stacey	Rhondda Cynon Taff
G Thomas	Blaenau Gwent
H Thomas	Newport
D White	Bridgend
K Gibbs	Merthyr

APOLOGIES:

P Wong	Cardiff
K McCaffer	Vale of Glamorgan
D Thomas	Torfaen

OFFICERS PRESENT: CFO H Jakeway, DCO S Chapman – Monitoring Officer, ACFO R Prendergast – Director of Technical Services, ACO P Haynes – Director of People Services, Mr C Barton – Treasurer, Mr C Powell – Deputy Monitoring Officer, Mr G Thomas – Head of Finance & Procurement, Ms Sarah Watkins,

Head of Service Performance and Communications, Mr M Jones, Welsh Audit Office, Station Manager Tony Jackson - Staff Officer (observing), Watch Manager Rhydian Jones, Training Delivery (observing)

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Principal Officers, the Deputy Monitoring Officer and the Head of Finance & Procurement declared an interest in Agenda Item No. (6.v) National Joint Council for Brigade Managers of Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services – Joint Circular to confirm agreement in respect of the Pay Award for 2017 and advised they would be leaving the room during the presentation and consideration of this item.

18. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

18.1 Fire Medical Response Trials and National Pay Update

It was with disappointment the Chair advised that, following the Fire Brigades' Union recent rejection of the Employers' 2% pay award, the Fire Medical Response Trials that were operating at a number of stations within South Wales have now ceased and that the FBU are advising all members not to engage further with the trials at this time.

The Chair advised that the Employers' side of the National Joint Council (NJC) had previously advised that the Fire Brigades' Union would be consulting its membership on the pay offer, with a recommendation to accept.

The consultation closed on 13th September 2017, at which time they advised that the outcome was to reject the offer. Furthermore, that the FBU would advise its members to no longer continue with work undertaken through the NJC trials. The trials within South Wales ceased on Monday 18th September 2017

He also advised that the FBU Executive Council Officer for Wales has stated they do not wish to respond to cardiac arrests, whilst discussions are ongoing.

V Smith expressed regret at this decision, on behalf of the communities within Monmouthshire.

The Chief Fire Officer advised that members will receive a report at the Fire Authority meeting in December, detailing number and types of calls responded to as part of the FMT trial.

18.2 Relocation of Fire Control

The Chair confirmed that it is the intention that South Wales Control will relocate to the Joint Public Service Centre within Police HQ, Bridgend, on 4th October 2017, with Mid and West Wales Control relocating on 11th October 2017.

A meeting is being held on Friday 29 September 2017, where a definite decision will be made. Members will be kept updated.

18.3 UK & World Extrication Competition

The Chair was pleased to advise South Wales Fire and Rescue Service's extrication team from Bridgend retained their national championship title after competing at the United Kingdom National Rescue Challenge in Hull. This double success in consecutive years has never been achieved by any team before and came just a week after the team also became world champions at the world extrication competition in Romania.

The Challenge, which was held at the KCOM Stadium in this year's City of Culture, saw three extrication teams from South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (SWFRS), as well as a trauma team, take on the very best 30 rescue teams from across the UK. The extrication teams came were Bridgend, Porthcawl and the Dragons.

Following their World Rescue Champion title, the Bridgend Extrication team was again awarded the Best UK Vehicle Rescue Team, with individual team awards going to Station Manager Andrew Morgan, who was placed second in the Best Officer in Charger category, along with second placed UK Technical Team of Watch Manager Allyn Hosey, Watch Manager Mark Isles and Firefighter Matthew Leman.

The Best Medics title again went to Watch Manager Roger Magan and Crew Manager Les Evans who also have the honour of being

recognised as the best medics in both the World and the United Kingdom Challenges this year.

All teams competed to an extremely professional level and were all positioned highly in the overall standings.

In recognition of their success, the 2018 United Kingdom Rescue Challenge had been awarded to South Wales Fire and Rescue Service and will be held at a venue in Cardiff in September 2018. This will be the second time the Service has been awarded the honour of hosting this prestigious event.

The Chair wished to extend congratulations to all team members on behalf of the Fire & Rescue Authority and commented that it shows the standard that exists within the Service. The team members will be present at the Presentation Evening being held 9th November 2017, to which he encouraged all members to attend.

18.4 Firefighters' Memorial Service held Sunday 10th September 2017

The Chair extended his thanks to Councillor White and Councillor Ali for their attendance at the Firefighters' Memorial Service held in London on Sunday 10th September 2017. He added that the event is held every year, and encouraged members to attend.

18.5 FAPM Working Group Meeting, Member Training, 2nd October 2017 and Meeting Venues and Start times

The Chair reminded members of the FAPM Committee of their agreement at their last meeting that all members of the committee would attend the next meeting of the FAPM working group on the 9th October 2017 in order that further detailed work on budget preparation could be carried out.

Also, he advised that the Member Training Session scheduled for the 2nd October 2017 will be at Headquarters. Due to one external speaker at this event, the start time for this session has been brought forward to 10.00am. The session will finish by 1300 hours.

However, to aid clarity following a little early confusion, and in line with the Authority's standing orders, all Authority meetings and

committees commence at 1030 hours at headquarters, unless otherwise stated.

The Chair stressed the importance of attending these training sessions and hope to see all there.

18.6 Retirement of Director of Human Resources

The Chair advised that this will be the last Fire & Rescue Authority meeting for Mr P Haynes, Director of People Services, who has advised of his intention to retire.

On behalf of the Fire Authority the Chair thanked him for his 11 years of service and wished him a very long, happy and healthy retirement. The Chair added that his extensive knowledge and expertise on pension and tax issues will be missed.

Mr Haynes thanked the Chair and commented that the decision to retire was very difficult. He has enjoyed working for the Fire & Rescue Authority, who have proven to be a very good, supportive employer and he wished them all the very best for the future

18.7 Fire Cadets Launch

The Chair reminded members of the Fire Cadet Launch being held this evening (25 September 2017), and hoped to see as many members there as possible.

19. MINUTES

Members considered the minutes of the following meetings, which were agreed by those members who were in attendance at the individual meetings:

- Local Pension Board Meeting held on 21 November 2016
- FAPM Meeting held on 5 December 2016
- HR & Equalities Meeting held on 16 January 2017
- Fire & Rescue Authority Meeting held on 13 February 2017
- Standards Committee Meeting held on 6 March 2017
- HR & Equalities Meeting held on 3 April 2017
- Annual General Meeting held on 12 June 2017

RESOLVED THAT

Members resolved to note the contents of the minutes.

20. UPDATE ON ACTIONS

The Deputy Chief Officer presented the 'Update on Outstanding Issues Arising from Previous Fire & Rescue Authority Meetings' for members' information.

RESOLVED THAT:

Members resolved to note the contents of the document.

21. END OF YEAR HEALTH CHECK ON PERFORMANCE AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES 2016/17

The Deputy Chief Officer presented the report which gives assurance to members and senior management on progress towards achievement of the Strategic Objectives and performance of the Strategic Performance indicators for 2016/17 as at the end of the financial year.

L Brown reiterated concern and regret that Fire Medical Calls have been ceased. The Chair added that it is of concern, but unfortunately it was a decision made by the FBU.

RESOLVED THAT

Members resolved to accept the performance and statistical data for 2016/17 contained within the report.

22. CORPORATE RISK REGISTER 2016/17 – QUARTER 4 REVIEW

The Deputy Chief Officer presented the report and gave the background to the strategic risks within the Corporate Risk Register, and the subsequent management of the risks.

RESOLVED THAT

Members resolved to agree the validity of the strategic risks contained within the Corporate Risk Register for 2016/17.

23. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2016/17

The Treasurer presented the ISA260 Report, Statement of Accounts for 2016/17 and the letter of representation required by the Auditor, for members' consideration.

He advised that a mechanism will be put in place to ensure FAPM members can monitor from year to year.

Mr M Jones, Wales Audit Office (WAO) gave the detail to the report from WAO and answered questions from members.

The Treasurer advised that the timetable for the submission for the annual accounts is being brought forward nationally. This will require the Fire & Rescue Authority to produce the Statements of Accounts for 2018/19 earlier, hence, will require them to be submitted to the respective July meeting.

RESOLVED THAT

Members resolved to:

23.1 Note the content of the ISA260 report of the Appointed Auditor

23.2 Approve the amended final Statement of Accounts

23.3 Note the letter of representation prior to the completion by the Treasurer and Chairman

24 2016/17 ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW

The Treasurer presented the results of the Treasury Management activities for the year ending 31 March 2017, for members' consideration.

RESOLVED THAT

Members resolved to note the Annual Treasury Management Review for 2016/17 and approve the actual 2016/17 prudential and treasury indicators set therein.

25. NATIONAL JOINT COUNCIL FOR BRIGADE MANAGERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES – JOINT CIRCULAR TO CONFIRM AGREEMENT IN RESPECT OF THE PAY AWARD FOR 2017

Principal Officers, the Deputy Monitoring Officer and the Head of Finance & Procurement left the room.

The Director of Human Resources presented the National Joint Council for Brigade Managers of Local Authority Fire & Rescue Services joint circular, for members' determination.

The Director of Human Resources advised of his intention to leave the room whilst members deliberated; the Chair and members requested he stay, due to the fact he is retiring.

The Chair commented on the anomaly in pay for the three Chief Fire Officers within Wales, commenting that the pay scale against population bands did not appear to be equitable. The Director of Human Resources advised that both Mid and West Wales and North Wales would be in lower population bands. Also, Mid and West Wales have introduced performance related payments. He cautioned against the general application of such payments, advising that there could be significant pay, tax and pension implications for the Fire & Rescue Authority, depending on which firefighter pension scheme an officer was assigned to.

RESOLVED THAT

The members resolved to:

25.1 Note the National Joint Council for Brigade Managers of Local Authority Fire & Rescue Services joint circular which confirms agreement has been reached in respect of the Pay Award for 2017

25.2 Agree the 2017 National Joint Council Pay Award, dated 27th July 2017, in relation to the staff identified within the Fire & Rescue Authority's Annual Pay Policy.

26. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS) AND RESERVES STRATEGY UPDATE

The Treasurer presented the report on the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Reserves Strategy which had also been considered by FAPM at their meeting on 11 September 2017.

The Treasurer confirmed that members will receive a training seminar on the MTFs at their training event on 2nd October 2017.

RESOLVED THAT

Members resolved to note and agree the content of the report.

27. REPORT ON UPDATED PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TARGETS 2017/2018

The Deputy Chief Officer presented the report on the Updated Performance Targets 2017/18, for members' consideration, drawing their attention to the updated targets for 'Deaths and injuries arising from all fires' and 'Deaths and injuries arising from all fires which were started accidentally'.

RESOLVED THAT

Members resolved to:

- 27.1 Endorse the Performance Indicators proposed for 2017/18, particularly the updated targets for 'Deaths and injuries arising from all fires' and 'Deaths and injuries arising from all fires which were started accidentally'
- 27.2 Approve its publication onto the South Wales Fire & Rescue Service internet site.

28. REPORT ON PROPOSED PRIORITY ACTIONS 2018/19

The Deputy Chief Officer presented the proposed Priority Actions for 2018/19 for publication in the Service's Annual Improvement Plan - Stage 2, for members' approval.

RESOLVED THAT:

Members resolved to:

- 28.1 Agree the Priority Actions for 2018/19

28.2 Approve these Priority Actions for publication in the “Consultation Document” – Stage 2 of the Annual Improvement Plan on the South Wales Fire & Rescue Service internet site by 31 October 2017.

29. EMERGENCY SERVICES MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMME

The Director of Technical Services presented the report on the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme, for members’ information.

C Elsbury expressed concern in relation to the time this has taken to date, and the potential cost to the Fire & Rescue Authority.

L Brown advised that mobile and broadband reception is poor in the Monmouthshire area and expressed concern that the proposed changes could be less reliable than what is in place currently, and felt more consideration was required. V Smith was in agreement.

The Director of Technical Services advised that this should not be the case and that the new system will be at least as good. Also The Joint Emergency Services Group has been lobbying Welsh Government to ensure reception ‘dead spots’ are covered.

RESOLVED THAT

Members resolved to note the implications of the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme.

30. OPERATION ATEGOL

The Director of Technical Services presented and gave the background to Operational ATEGOL, which is the Service’s plan to respond to industrial action and any subsequent loss of staff.

RESOLVED THAT

Members resolved to note the report and the principles of the plan for loss of staff.

31. AUDIT OF THE SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY 2017/2018 IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Deputy Chief Officer presented the report of the Audit of the South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority 2017/18 Improvement Plan, which advises members of the issue of the Certificate of Compliance for the audit of the Authority's 2017/18 Improvement Plan.

RESOLVED THAT:

Members resolved to note the issue of the Certificate of Compliance for the audit of the Authority's 2017/18 Improvement Plan which is incorporated into its Strategic Plan 2017-22.

32. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Deputy Chief Officer presented the forward Work Programme 2017/18.

RESOLVED THAT:

Members resolved to the note the content of the Forward Work Programme.

33. TO CONSIDER ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DEEMS URGENT

There were no items of business that the Chair deemed urgent.