

SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14 DECEMBER 2015 AT SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS

35. PRESENT:

Councillor	Left	Authority
D T Davies (Chair)		Caerphilly
D Ali		Cardiff
S Bradwick		Rhondda Cynon Taff
P Drake		Vale of Glamorgan
E Galsworthy		Merthyr Tydfil
E Hacker		Vale of Glamorgan
P Hannon		Newport
C Hawker		Caerphilly
K Hyde		Cardiff
C James		Bridgend
M Javed		Cardiff
S J Jones		Rhondda Cynon Taff
R McKerlich		Cardiff
B Morgan		Rhondda Cynon Taff
G Phillips		Cardiff
S Pickering		Rhondda Cynon Taff
M Powell		Monmouthshire
M Rahman		Newport
P Seabourne		Torfaen
C Smith		Bridgend
V Smith		Monmouthshire

APOLOGIES:

C Elsbury	Caerphilly
A Jones	Torfaen
J Morgan	Blaenau Gwent

ABSENT:

OFFICERS PRESENT:- CFO H Jakeway, DCO S Chapman – Monitoring Officer, ACFO R Prendergast – Director of Technical Services, ACO P Haynes – Director of People Services, ACFO A Thomas – Director of Service Delivery, Mr C Barton – Treasurer, Mr G

Thomas – Head of Finance & Procurement, Mr R Price – Wales Audit Officer, GM G Davies – Head of Community Safety & Partnerships

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

37. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOODING IN CUMBRIA

With reference to the recent devastating floods within the Cumbria district, on behalf of Members the Chair took the opportunity to extend thanks and appreciation to Officers from South Wales Fire & Rescue Service who attended the flooded areas to provide members of the public with help and support.

COMBINED EMERGENCY SERVICE CAROL SERVICE

The Chair informed Members that 300 people had attended the Combined Emergency Service Carol Service which took place on 3 December, 2015, at Llandaff Cathedral. The Chair highlighted that although the Carol Service was a great success, he was disappointed to note that only 3 Fire & Rescue Authority Members were in attendance.

UNITARY AUTHORITY BUDGET MEETINGS

The Chair informed Members that along with the Chief Fire Officer, and Treasurer, he had attended a meeting at each of the 10 Unitary Authorities to remind them of the Service's responsibilities to the public of South Wales, and to discuss the budgetary requirements to deliver the necessary services. He stated it was a good PR exercise, and he wished to record his thanks to all concerned for their co-operation in attending the meetings.

SEASONS GREETINGS

The Chair took the opportunity to thank Members for all their help and support throughout the year, and wished to record his thanks and appreciation to Officers for all their efforts, and hard work on behalf of the Fire & Rescue Authority. He also wished Members and Officers a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Members thanked the Chair for his best wishes.

38. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

- FAPM meeting held on 29 June 2015
- Local Pension Board meeting held on 2 July 2015
- HR & Equalities meeting held on 20 July 2015
- FAPM meeting held on 14 September 2015

The minutes recorded at the Fire & Rescue Authority meeting held on 21 September 2015, were received and accepted as a true record of proceedings subject to the following amendment:-

- Councillor C Smith had presented his apologies, and was not absent as recorded.

39. UPDATE ON ACTIONS

The Deputy Chief Officer informed Members of actions undertaken since the last meeting, and provided updates on minute numbers:- 13/14-24.2, 13/14-62, and 15/16-21.1.

Following a request by Councillor James, the Deputy Chief Officer provided an update on a new site for Kenfig Hill Fire Station. Members noted that the Property Team were expanding their search area, and were in the process of considering the risk profiles for potential sites.

40. REPORTS FOR DECISIONS

40.1 WALES AUDIT OFFICE ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2014/2015

The Deputy Chief Officer and Wales Audit Officer presented a report to Members which concluded the Wales Audit Office review of the Authority's delivery and evaluation of services in relation to 2014/2015, and whether it believed that the Authority was likely to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement for 2015/2016.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to accept the Wales Audit Office Annual Improvement Report 2014/2015 for the Authority.

The Chair and Deputy Chief Officer wished to record thanks and appreciation to all the staff within the organisation for helping to continue to deliver a first class service despite reducing resources throughout the year.

40.2 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT 2015/2016

The ACFO Service Delivery presented a report for Members to review the performance information and recorded incident statistics from April to September 2015.

RESOLVED THAT

- 40.2.1 Following a lengthy question and answer session, Members agreed to review the performance details and statistical data for the first six months of 2015/2016 contained within the report.
- 40.2.2 Members approved its publication on to the South Wales Fire & Rescue Service (SWFRS) internet site.
- 40.2.3 Following a request by Members, Officers agreed to consider providing comparison data on each of the areas by population.
- 40.2.4 Following discussion on Unwanted Fire Alarms, Officers confirmed that Members would be presented with a report in due course.

40.3 REVENUE BUDGET ESTIMATE 2016-2017 (ADDENDUM)

The Treasurer presented an addendum to Members which provided additional information in relation to announcements made by the Welsh Government affecting the revenue budget approval for 2016/2017.

RESOLVED THAT

- 40.3.1 Members unanimously agreed to note the content of the letter from the Minister together with the potential financial impact on the budget estimated at £0.208m equivalent to 0.3% of the revenue budget.
- 40.3.2 Following a question and answer session, Members unanimously agreed they were disappointed to note that the lack of Welsh Government commitment to the

continued future funding for the replacement of the Emergency Services Network.

- 40.3.3 With reference to National Resilience Grants (Revenue) Members unanimously agreed that Officers should continue discussions with Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service, and North Wales Fire & Rescue Service, before carrying out a review and presenting a further report to the Fire & Rescue Authority in due course.
- 40.3.4 With reference to Community Fire Safety Grants (Revenue), Members unanimously agreed that in order to sustain the level of this critical work in the community, Officers should add a figure of £80,000 to the proposed core budget thus increasing it to £69,511,075.
- 40.3.5 Members unanimously agreed to approve the amended budget as the basis of the consultation with constituent councils having first considered the financial information contained in the original budget report previously circulated, together with the addendum report and the reductions in funding outlined in Appendix 1 attached to the addendum.

The Chair of the Finance, Audit & Performance Management Committee wished to record his thanks to the Treasurer, Head of Finance, and the Finance, Audit & Performance Management Committee, for all their hard work in preparing and managing the budget.

40.4 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-TERM REVIEW REPORT 2015/2016

The Treasurer informed Members that the Treasury Management Mid-Term Review Report provided an update on the Authority's treasury activities for the period 1 April-30 September 2015.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to note and approve the treasury management activities, the prudential indicators, changes to investment criteria and credit methodology contained within the report.

40.5 WHAT MATTERS TO YOU SURVEY REPORT

The Deputy Chief Officer presented to Members the Community Engagement Campaign Feedback Report.

RESOLVED THAT

- 40.5.1 Members agreed to note the Community Engagement Campaign Feedback Report.
- 40.5.2 Members agreed for the report to be published on the Service's website.

40.6 SECURITY PROVISION UPGRADE AT HEADQUARTERS

The Deputy Chief Officer presented a report to Members which sought approval to proceed with the proposals outlined in the report which focused on enhancing and improving the Service's existing security provision at Headquarters.

- 40.6.1 Members unanimously agreed to approve the virement of funds to allow for the completion of Phase 1 improvements for this financial year.
- 40.6.2 Following consideration of the proposals suggested in Phase 2 of the report, Members unanimously agreed to the options being fully costed for further consideration in the coming financial year.

41. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

41.1 REPORT ON PROGRESS OF ACHIEVEMENT OF IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AS AT QUARTER 2 2015/2016

The Deputy Chief Officer presented a report to give Members of the Fire & Rescue Authority and Senior Management within South Wales Fire & Rescue Service assurance on the progress towards achievement of the Improvement Objectives and Strategic objectives agreed for 2015/2016 as at the end of Quarter 2.

RESOLVED THAT

Members confirmed they had reasonable assurance that progress in quarter two indicated that the Improvement and Strategic Objectives for 2015/2016 were likely to be achieved.

41.2 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES – DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

The Deputy Chief Officer brought to Members' attention the relevant sections of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales' Draft Annual Report that related to Payments to Members of Welsh Fire & Rescue Authorities.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to note the extract of the Independent Remuneration Panel's Draft Annual Report which provided details of payments to Members of Welsh Fire & Rescue Authorities contained within Appendix 1 attached to the report.

41.2.2 Officers agreed to consider a remuneration for the Chair of the Fire Authority's Local Pension Board.

41.3 REPORT ON THE SERVICE'S WELSH LANGUAGE PROVISION

The ACO People Services provided Members with an analysis of the Authority's commitment to delivering Welsh Language Services against our legal requirements and explained the roles of the Welsh Language Officer and Translator posts. Provided within the report was statistical data of the Welsh language services delivered during the financial year for 2014-2015, and the associated staffing and training costs for the same period.

The report also provided details of the work that was on-going in developing collaborative opportunities with Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service, Welsh Ambulance Service Trust, Gwent Police, and South Wales Police.

RESOLVED THAT

Following discussion on statutory requirements, Members agreed to note the content of the report.

41.4 SUMMARY OF THE NATIONAL ISSUES COMMITTEE MEETING

The Deputy Chief Officer updated Members on the outcomes of the October 2015 meeting of the Fire & Rescue Services' All Wales National Issues Committee.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to note the content of the National Issues Committee summary report.

41.5 FIREFIGHTERS PENSION DISPUTE – UPDATE ON INDUSTRIAL ACTION

The ACFO Technical Services provided Members with a verbal update on the Industrial Action relating to the Firefighters Pension dispute, the recent legal challenge launched by the Fire Brigades Union, and the fact that a decision would not be expected until early 2017.

In the meantime, the Fire Brigades Union had confirmed that no further strike action would be called on the current trade union dispute before June 2017.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to note the positive update on the Firefighters Pension dispute.

41.6 FIRE & RESCUE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK 2016

The Chief Fire Officer presented a report which introduced Members to the Fire & Rescue National Framework 2016.

On behalf of everyone in the Service, the Chief Fire Officer took the opportunity to record thanks to all Members for their continued support and commitment to the organisation.

RESOLVED THAT

- 41.6.1 Following discussion on the level of scrutiny carried out by Members, and their statutory duties and responsibilities, it was agreed to receive the Fire & Rescue National Framework 2016.
- 41.6.2 Members also noted that they would be contacted by e-mail in due course on whether they wished to visit Cardiff Gate Training & Development Centre to observe the facilities at the site.

41.7 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Deputy Chief Officer presented the Forward Work Programme for 2015/2016.

RESOLVED THAT

Members accepted the Forward Work Programme for 2015/2016.

41.8 DELIBERATE FIRES & WILDFIRES

The Head of Community Safety & Partnerships delivered an electronic presentation to Members on Deliberate Fires & Wildfires.

RESOLVED THAT

41.8.1 Members agreed to note the electronic presentation on Deliberate Fires & Wildfires, and thanked the Head of Community Safety & Partnerships for providing the detailed information.

41.8.2 Officers assured Members that the electronic presentation would be delivered to full Council meetings across South Wales in due course.

42. TO CONSIDER ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT (PART 1 OR 2)

There were no items of urgent business.