

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Minutes of the meeting of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority held on Monday 15th October 2007 at The Guildhall, Wrexham. Meeting commenced at 10.30am.

Present:

Councillor

T Roberts (Chairman)
E C George (Vice-Chairman)

P C Evans JP
W E Jones
J A MacLennan
J M Vaughan
G C Evans
S Frobisher
J A Smith
D Clayton
E F Evans
R G Hampson
C Shone
M Griffith
E Morgan Jones
W T Owen
G O Williams
N S Colbourne
G M Craddock
M Williams
P M Shone
W J Chorlton

Representing

Gwynedd Council
Wrexham County Borough Council

Conwy County Borough Council
Conwy County Borough Council
Conwy County Borough Council
Conwy County Borough Council
Denbighshire County Council
Denbighshire County Council
Denbighshire County Council
Flintshire County Council
Flintshire County Council
Flintshire County Council
Flintshire County Council
Gwynedd Council
Gwynedd Council
Gwynedd Council
Gwynedd Council
Wrexham County Borough Council
Wrexham County Borough Council
Wrexham County Borough Council
Wrexham County Borough Council
Ynys Môn County Council

Also present:

S A Smith (Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive); I R Miller (Clerk and Monitoring Officer to the Authority); K W Finch (Treasurer to the Authority); C Enness (Deputy Chief Fire Officer); P S Claydon (Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Service Delivery); D Docx (Assistant Chief Officer, Finance and Procurement); S Morris (Corporate Planning Manager); W A Murphy (Senior Operations Manager); L Roberts (Fire Control Manager); S Forrest (Accountant, Treasurer's Department, Conwy County Borough Council) and Rh Evans (Member Liaison Officer).

PART I

1) Apologies

Councillor

R D Peacock
G Williams
D Barratt
W T Roberts

Representing

Conwy County Borough Council
Denbighshire County Council
Flintshire County Council
Ynys Môn County Council

C Hanks

Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Service Support)

2) Notice of Urgent Matters

The Chairman advised that no items had been submitted to either the Clerk or him for consideration.

Prior to the commencement of business the Chief Fire Officer informed members of a dwelling fire which had occurred during the early hours of the morning at Penyffordd near Ffynnongroyw, and which had sadly claimed the life of a 24 year old male. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Service Support) was still at the scene overseeing the fire investigation work. The Chief Fire Officer stated that regrettably, despite an increased effort by the Service in delivering community fire safety (CFS), these unnecessary deaths were continuing to happen all too often.

3) Announcements

The Chairman:

- i. conveyed the Authority's best wishes to Councillor W T Roberts who had recently spent a few days in hospital;
- ii. informed members of the passing of Councillor Alan Nichols, a former Wrexham County Borough Council representative on the Authority. The Vice-Chairman paid tribute to Councillor Nichols who had served on the Authority and its Executive Panel up until 2004;
- iii. informed members of the dates of future formal and informal committee meetings.

4) Minutes

The following minutes were submitted:

- i. Fire and Rescue Authority meeting held on 18th June 2007

Resolved: - to approve the minutes as a true and correct record of proceedings.

The following minutes were submitted for information purposes:

- ii. Executive Panel meeting held on 21st May 2007
- iii. Executive Panel meeting held on 25th July 2007

5) Matters Arising

The following matters arose from the minutes submitted:

Fire and Rescue Authority meeting 18th June 2007:

Page 3, Item 3, Announcements: members were informed by the Chief Fire Officer that a new Corporate Communications Manager had now been appointed. Mrs Tracey Williams, who had taken up her post the previous week, had been due to attend the meeting but, following the fatal fire at Penyffordd, she had been diverted there to deal with press and media enquiries.

Page 4, Item 5, Matters Arising – Risk Reduction Plan 2008/09: since the Authority's last meeting there had been a change in the Welsh Assembly Government's (WAG) cabinet portfolios and the portfolio holders. There was no longer a Minister for Social Justice and Public Service Delivery and responsibility for the fire and rescue services in Wales now lay with the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, Dr. Brian Gibbons AM. Members were advised by the Chief Fire Officer that despite, initial contact with the Minister for Social Justice and Public Service Delivery, and follow-up contact with the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government in an attempt to initiate the required 'informal discussion' on the Authority's Risk Reduction Plan (RRP) proposals, in line with the Assembly's own guidance, no progress had been made in this area. As the Authority was required to approve and publish its Action Plan by 31st October 2007 and bearing in mind that the proposals were being presented to members for approval at the present meeting, there seemed little point in pursuing Assembly officials to arrange a meeting on the matter following the current Authority meeting.

Page 5, Item 7 – Locating Dual Role Appliances: the Chairman enquired whether any requests seeking dispensations to be granted had been received following the Vice-Chairman's comments at the previous meeting. The Monitoring Officer advised that no member had approached him with a request for dispensations to be granted. He also advised that in relation to the matter under discussion he was not aware that any member had an interest that might lead to a request for a dispensation. The granting of dispensations was only necessary or appropriate in cases such as when a member, or a relative of a member, were directly affected by a particular item or subject. The fact that the issue under consideration related to the area which a member represented did not constitute an interest that required declaration.

6) Chairman's Report

The Chairman introduced his report (distributed at the meeting) which provided members with a brief update on the meetings and events attended by him in his capacity as Chairman, and in his absence by the Vice-Chairman, since the Fire and Rescue Authority's last meeting on 18th June 2007. It was:

Resolved: - to note the information contained in the report.

7) Response to the Consultation on the Authority's Draft Risk Reduction Action Plan 2008/09

The Assistant Chief Officer (Finance and Procurement) introduced her report and the associated appendix (previously circulated) which summarised the responses received to the Authority's consultation on the draft Risk Reduction Plan (RRP) Action Plan 2008/09. The responses to the public consultation on the draft Action Plan 2008/09 had been discussed by the Authority's RRP Working Group and Executive Panel at their meetings on 24th September. Both committees had given full and detailed consideration to the comments received and consequently the Executive Panel had formulated a recommendation in relation to the Action Plan's approval. This recommendation was contained in the report before members.

Members were reminded by the Assistant Chief Officer (Finance and Procurement) that the first and main proposal in the draft Action Plan, to place renewed and additional emphasis on preventing fires particularly those that present a risk to life, stemmed from the recommendations of the Chief Fire Officer's Task Group Report into Accidental Dwelling Fire Deaths, commissioned in the wake of the unacceptable rise in the number of such incidents in North Wales during 2006/07.

The Corporate Planning Manager briefed members on the report's contents which included the methods by which the consultation process had been undertaken and publicised, the level of responses received and the categories of individuals and organisations which had responded. She explained that of the 62 responses received within the 12 week timeframe approximately two-thirds had been submitted by serving personnel, none of which had been sent by Control Room personnel or support staff. The appendix to the report categorised the responses received, these fell into 6 different groups: general comments about the draft Action Plan document; comments supporting the proposals; comments that fundamentally disagreed with the proposals; comments that did not support the proposals; comments that suggested alternatives and questions raised. The latter category could be split into two sub-groups: genuine information seeking questions and questions which were rhetorical in nature.

The Corporate Planning Manager then proceeded to detail the responses received and the Authority's proposed response as set out in the report's

appendix. She explained that certain proposals had attracted a higher number of responses than others and, although submitted by different respondents, the wording of some comments were extremely similar or virtually identical. The proposal to introduce an alternative method for the rostering of operational personnel was an issue which had attracted replicated comments.

Councillor W J Chorlton commented that he would have appreciated a précis being included in the report of Wholetime, Day-Crewed and Control Room personnel's reaction and feedback to the Assistant Chief Fire Officer's (Service Delivery) presentation on the Rostering Review. Responding to this point the Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Service Delivery) advised that his remit when delivering the presentation was quite explicit and defined. He was to present the review's findings to the 'watches' at each station and in the Control Room, outline to personnel the objective of the proposal and its implications, and advise personnel that any comments or observations they wished to make should be submitted via the proper channel laid out for the consultation process.

The Vice-Chairman, when moving the report's recommendation, thanked officers for their work in drawing up and consulting on the draft Action Plan. He informed the Authority that, following the RRP Working Group and Executive Panel's deliberations, the Panel had resolved that proposal 3 merited further research and was therefore recommending that the Authority only approve proposals 1, 2 and 4 at present pending further analysis of the issues raised by respondents in relation to proposal 3. Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority had already implemented a new rostering system similar to the one proposed for North Wales. As part of its further research the RRP Working Group would be inviting representatives from Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority to a Working Group meeting to share their views and experiences of the new rostering system. The recommendation was seconded.

Prior to the recommendation being put to the vote the Clerk enquired about the proposed timescale for the additional research work around the third proposal. He apologised that he had not been able to be present at the Executive Panel meeting when the recommendation had been formulated, but explained that he was of the view that a decision on the matter should be taken before the conclusion of the negotiations on the next budget settlement and ahead of next year's local authority elections. The Clerk was concerned that the Authority would, by approving the first proposal and deferring the approval of the third proposal at present, be committing itself to embark on a programme of work which it could not afford to finance. Bearing in mind known budgetary pressures and the likely constraints of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) settlement the Clerk cautioned members against deferring decisions on unpopular proposals and reminded them of their duties under Best Value legislation.

The Chief Fire Officer advised that the work on the deferred proposal would now be carried over and undertaken as part of the 2009/10 RRP process. A debate

on the financial implications of deferring this proposal would form part of the discussions around the Service's Budget, due to be held at the informal Fire and Rescue Authority meeting scheduled for Monday 5th November 2007. The Treasurer urged members to make every effort to attend the meeting on the 5th November as it would assist them in understanding the consequences of the recent CSR announcement.

The Vice-Chairman advised that the Working Group was looking at preparing the 2009/10 draft RRP ahead of next year's local authority elections. Following an in-depth discussion it was:

Resolved: - to

- i. note the responses received to the consultation on the draft RRP Action Plan 2008/09;***
- ii. confirm the Authority's intention to proceed with the plans shown in Proposals 1, 2 and 4 of the Draft RRP Action Plan 2008/09;***
- iii. agree to defer a decision on plans shown in Proposal 3(a) the Rostering Review, and 3(b) the Dedicated Response Option of the Draft RRP Action Plan 2008/09 to allow time for the Risk Reduction Plan Working Group to undertake additional detailed work to assess the full implications of these plans, and submit its recommendation to the Executive Panel for ratification by the full Authority; and***
- iv. confirm that the final wording of its response to written comments submitted by consultees on the draft RRP Action Plan 2008/09, be as drafted in Appendix 1 to the report.***

8) Draft Improvement Plan 2007/08

The Assistant Chief Officer (Finance and Procurement) introduced her report and the Authority's draft Improvement Plan 2007/08 (distributed at the meeting) to members. She explained that it was a statutory requirement for the approved version of the Improvement Plan to be in the public domain by 31st October in each year. The Assistant Chief Officer (Finance and Procurement) apologised to members for the lateness of the report and the draft Improvement Plan. She explained that officers had been required to compile the draft Plan in the absence of the WAG's Wales Programme for Improvement – Fire and Rescue Authorities (WPI-FRA) Guidance. She also explained that the majority of the information contained in the draft Plan had already been presented to members during the course of the current year in the form of other Authority reports. In view of the lateness of the availability of the report and draft Plan the Vice-Chairman requested that the Authority delegate the task of approving the 2007/08 Improvement Plan to the Executive Panel. Responding to this request the Clerk pointed out that, from an audit perspective, this may not be acceptable as local authorities were required to publish their approved Improvement Plans by the 31st October in each year. The Service's Corporate Planning Manager advised members that she had contacted the Wales Audit

Office (WAO) who would, in due course, be responsible for auditing the Plan to enquire whether it would class an approval in principle of the Plan before the 31st October, with the formal approval on the Authority's behalf being delegated to the Executive Panel at its meeting on 15th November, as being a matter of major non-compliance. In its response the WAO had indicated that it may make reference to the failure to publish the approved Plan by the statutory date in the Relationship Manager's Annual Letter but, due to the absence of both the WAG's guidance and the new suite of strategic and core indicators, it would note that the approach taken by the Authority was reasonable given the circumstances. Members:

Resolved: - to

- i. note the requirement to publish an Improvement Plan for 2007/08 before 31st October 2007;***
- ii. approve in principle the draft Improvement Plan 2007/08, and that any amendments or questions relating to the Plan be sent to the Assistant Chief Officer (Finance and Procurement) by 25th October 2007 to enable the Authority to publish the Plan by 31st October 2007; and***
- iii. delegate powers to the Executive Panel, at its meeting on 15th November 2007, to approve the final Plan document for 2007/08.***

11am: The Assistant Chief Officer (Finance and Procurement) and the Corporate Planning Manager left the meeting at this juncture.

9) Presentation by Atal Tân Cymru

The Chairman welcomed Ms Kim Smith, Chief Executive of Atal Tân Cymru, to the meeting. Prior to the commencement of her presentation Ms Smith distributed copies of Atal Tân Cymru's Annual Report 2007 to members.

Ms Smith informed members that the objective of Atal Tân Cymru, a registered charity established approximately four years ago, was to reduce the number of deaths and injuries in Wales through fire. The charity had a small workforce and a Trustee Board made up of the Chief Fire Officers and Chairs of the three Welsh fire and rescue authorities, representatives from the WAG and three independent members. This Board of Trustees was responsible for developing and approving the organisation's overall strategy.

Prior to answering members' questions Ms Smith gave members a brief overview of the organisation's work. She explained that its work ranged from promoting fire safety by commissioning radio and television advertising campaigns under the guise of FireFlash to the production of fire safety literature; supporting and facilitating joint arson reduction groups and assisting them with funding bids; educating children and young people through the various key stages within the school curriculum in Wales on the dangers of fire and about safety in general;

and research. No great amount of work had been undertaken on the latter area in previous years, but it was Ms Smith's intention to do more work in this area in future. She was of the view that Wales, and in particular Atal Tân, could in future become a repository of research. With so much information, data and statistics already having been collated the time had now come for it to be analysed so that it could be used to inform campaigns aimed at influencing changes in human behaviour which would, hopefully, result in a reduction in the number of fire related fatalities and injuries. By utilising Atal Tân for the co-ordination of fire safety promotional work across Wales resources could be targeted in a measured and equal proportion right across the country. The organisation could also assist in targeting these messages at disengaged communities and citizens. Using the charity as the vehicle for this promotional work also ensured that a uniformed message was being delivered to each home and business.

Replying to questions Ms Smith advised members of the level of funding contributed to the organisation by each Welsh fire and rescue authority and the WAG, and detailed financial support which Atal Tân itself had been able to secure from other funding sources. She also encouraged members to contact her with suggestions or feedback once they had read the Annual Report. To alleviate members' fears about the negative effect the fact that Atal Tân was based at Newport might have on North Wales, the Chief Fire Officer informed the Authority that ever since its establishment Atal Tân had forged strong working relationships with the Service in North Wales, and that Ms Smith was more than willing to travel to the area on a regular basis.

The Vice-Chairman emphasised that interaction with local authorities was vital in the bid to reduce the number of fire related deaths and injuries and enquired whether Atal Tân was in contact with the Home Safety Council for Wales. Ms Smith advised that whilst Atal Tân was actively involved with the promotion of the all-Wales free Home Fire Safety Check (HFSC) freephone number it was not presently in contact with the Home Safety Council for Wales. She explained that she would appreciate receiving the Council's contact details from the Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman thanked Ms Smith for attending the meeting, for addressing members and answering their questions.

10) Locating Dual Role Appliances

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Service Delivery) presented his report (previously circulated) which informed members of the Executive Panel's recommendation to locate a dual role appliance at Dolgellau. He explained that, following the Fire and Rescue Authority's decision on 18th June to defer a final decision on the location of the South Gwynedd appliance pending further examination of the facts, the Executive Panel at its meeting on 25th July had given thorough consideration to the data and information relating to the matter. To ensure its

robustness the data on which the original decision had been based had been re-examined ahead of the Executive Panel's meeting. For members' benefit the report which the Executive Panel had considered, including all the maps, was annexed to the report issued for the current meeting and the minutes of the Panel's meeting had been submitted to the current meeting for information purposes under business item 4.

Councillor E C George proposed an amendment to the Executive Panel's recommendation. Having had the benefit of a visit to Barmouth at the invitation of the Town Council he was of the view that a decision on the appliance's location should be deferred and that the matter should be referred back to the Executive Panel for further consideration. Councillor George informed members that during his visit, which included a tour of the town, he had seen the narrow streets and been briefed about inaccessibility issues and other matters surrounding the relocation proposal which were causing concern to local residents and to the Town Council. During his visit he had been informed that the Town Council intended to extend an invitation to all Executive Panel members to visit the town for a site meeting, at a time and date convenient for Panel members, so that they could hear the Town Council's concerns and see for themselves the accessibility problems. The Vice-Chairman drew members' attention to an incident the previous week to which the dual role appliance had been mobilised because the first appliance could not get close enough to the property to deal with the fire. Another issue that was of concern to him was the fact that when personnel are mobilised to Barmouth fire station up to 12 members of staff could turn in, but with only five members of staff required to crew a front line appliance 7 personnel would have to stand down. If the dual role appliance was retained at the station these personnel could crew the dual role appliance in order to assist the frontline engine. Replying to these points the Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Service Delivery) informed members that it was standard procedure at all retained fire stations for 12 members of staff to be mobilised to attend the station, once the required appliances were fully crewed any staff which were not required would stand down. With regard to the incident to which the Vice-Chairman had referred, the Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Service Delivery) advised members that this had been a chimney fire which under recognised Service response procedures required a single appliance attendance. The frontline appliance which had been mobilised to attend the incident had been able to reach within 80m of the property, this was well within the required distance laid-out in operational procedures for dealing with such incidents.

The Vice-Chairman was also concerned that, although it was only Barmouth Town Council who had raised these issues, other areas in North Wales had similar accessibility issues. Replying to this point the Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Service Delivery) referred members to paragraphs 15 and 16 of Appendix 1 to his report which compared the ratio of properties with restricted access in the Barmouth area with those in other station areas where no dual role appliances were based.

Councillor E Morgan Jones echoed the Vice-Chairman's views and urged the Authority to defer a decision on the matter and the Executive Panel to accept Barmouth Town Council's invitation, as residents both in the town itself and in the outlying areas had concerns about the relocation proposal.

In response to a question from the Chairman on whether the Town Council's letter of invitation to the Executive Panel had been received, officers advised that the letter had not been received at the Service's Headquarters by the end of the previous week, but the delay could be a result of the recent postal dispute. The Chairman then handed the Clerk his copy of the letter which the Clerk duly read out to members.

The Chairman requested officers to clarify whether the introduction of the dual role appliances would now be delayed as a result of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) placing a large order for similar appliances with the supplier. Officers confirmed that the MOD had placed a large order with the suppliers but that this should not cause unnecessary delay, with the first dual-role appliance chassis due off the line at the being December 2008.

The Chairman advised members against feeling obliged to vote in a particular way on this issue because of his position on the Authority.

The Vice-Chairman was of the view that the recommendation detailed in the report had been formulated in the absence of the fullness of information and he therefore proposed that a decision on the matter should be deferred pending further consideration by the Executive Panel who in turn should submit a recommendation to the Authority at its December meeting. This proposal was seconded by Councillor W J Chorlton.

Members were reminded by the Clerk of the issues surrounding best value and the need to take decisions in an appropriate and timely manner, to which he had alluded earlier under business item 7. He proceeded to explain that the implementation of the decision to locate the South Gwynedd dual role appliance at Dolgellau had already been put on hold pending further scrutiny by the Executive Panel of the information on which the original decision had been based. The Panel had since re-examined the information in great detail and had come to the same conclusion on the optimum location for the appliance, hence the recommendation in the report presented to them. This recommendation had been unanimous, although the Chairman had abstained. Members were advised by the Clerk that the Authority's duty was to approve the strategic direction for the delivery of a fire and rescue service in North Wales and not to take minor operational decisions, such as the optimum location for appliances. He expressed his concern that ever since the commencement of the modernisation programme for fire and rescue services the Authority seemed, wherever possible, to defer decisions on contentious issues. The Clerk informed members that if a decision on this matter was once again deferred and referred

back to the Panel for further consideration he would consider raising the issue with the WAO, as he was concerned that members were unwilling to take decisions because of political concerns or pressures. His concern was heightened because the amendment had been moved by the Vice-Chairman, who was from the same political group as the Chairman (although he stressed that this did not in any way reflect on the Chairman's role: indeed he had abstained from voting in the Executive Panel).

Councillor P M Shone enquired whether, considering the standards set out as the principles of public life, should certain members be required to declare an interest in the matter and withdraw from the debate. The Clerk/Monitoring Officer advised that there had been no breach of the code of conduct, nor was he aware of any personal interests as defined in legislation pertaining to this issue. His concerns surrounded the amount of time the Authority had spent on this matter in comparison to the time it had allocated for other more strategic decisions.

Councillor P C Evans enquired whether the Executive Panel, as part of its deliberations, had considered the feasibility of Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service providing cover for part of the South Gwynedd area. Assistant Chief Fire Officer Claydon referred Councillor Evans to the map titled 'Barmouth and Dolgellau 30 minute attendance' shown as the last appendix to the report. If the decision was made to locate the appliance at Dolgellau the appliance would be able to reach the Authority's boundary with Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service within the 30 minute attendance time. The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that provisions were made in the Fire and Rescue National Framework for Wales for authorities to enter into mutual assistance agreements with other fire and rescue authorities for the purpose of effective and efficient cross-border service delivery.

Prior to the amendment being put to the vote the Chairman requested that a recorded vote be taken on the amendment. Councillor M Williams registered his concern about the use of a recorded vote on the matter. The Chairman was advised by the Clerk that the Authority's Committee Standing Orders made provisions for a recorded vote to be undertaken as long as "the appropriate number of members" were in favour of the matter being made the subject of a recorded vote. The appropriate number being "1/3 of the membership of the authority, committee or sub-committee as the case may be". In this case, for a recorded vote to be taken, nine members would have to vote in favour of the proposal to record the way each member voted. The proposal to make the amendment the subject of a recorded vote was put to the vote. Eight members voted in favour of making the amendment subject to a recorded vote, therefore it was:

Resolved: - not to make the amendment the subject of a recorded vote.

The Vice-Chairman's amendment was then put to the vote. On being put to the vote the amendment was, by a majority, lost. The Chairman and Councillor W J Chorlton requested that it be recorded that they voted for the amendment.

The Executive Panel's recommendation was then moved by Councillor E F Evans and seconded by Councillor D Clayton and on being put to the vote this recommendation was, by a majority, carried. It was:

Resolved: - to accept the recommendation of the Executive Panel to locate a dual role appliance at Dolgellau.

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Councillor W J Chorlton requested that it be recorded that they voted against the recommendation.

11) Provisional Outturn 2007/08

The Treasurer introduced his report (previously circulated) informing members of the estimated provisional outturn for the financial year 2007/08. He advised members that expenditure against budgets were constantly monitored closely by Service staff and any variances against the budget provision were highlighted as soon as they occurred. This enabled the Authority to mitigate the risk to its financial standing. Current indications were pointing to an overall budget overspend of approximately £12k by the end of the financial year. Prior to answering members' questions the Treasurer detailed the budget variances listed in his report and advised the Authority that it was anticipated that the overspend could be managed internally.

In reply to a question from Councillor E F Evans on whether the Authority would be reimbursed for the costs it had incurred whilst assisting with the flood relief work in South Yorkshire during the summer, the Treasurer advised that South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority had already recompensed the Authority for the costs incurred. It was:

Resolved: -

- i. to note that the current overspend was estimated to be £12k and that it was anticipated that it would be managed internally;***
- ii. that funds would be available in the Pension Provision to cover any overspend; and***
- iii. that a report detailing the pension position would be presented to members at the next Executive Panel meeting.***

12) Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators

The Treasurer introduced his report (previously circulated) which, in accordance with the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance and the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management, detailed any significant changes in the

Authority's Prudential Indicators, changes in long term borrowing and to the Authority's list of counterparties and requested the Authority's approval for the changes which had been made. Members:

Resolved: - to

- i. approve the amended Prudential Indicators;***
- ii. note the amended list of counterparties***
- iii. note the new Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) loan.***

13) Champions Working Group Update

The Member Liaison Officer introduced her and the Vice-Chairman's joint report (previously circulated) which informed members about the work of the Community Safety and Member Support and Development Champions Working Group since the Authority's last meeting on 18th June 2007. Members:

Resolved: - to note the information provided.

14) Urgent Matters

None.

The Chairman informed members that it was recommended that the remaining item of business on the meeting's agenda be discussed without the public or Press present. It was:

Resolved: - pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business because it was likely that there would be disclosed to them exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 8, 9 and 10 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

PART II

15) Extension of Operational Fire Kit Care Contract

In the Assistant Chief Officer's (Finance and Procurement) absence the Chief Fire Officer introduced her report (previously circulated) seeking members' approval to extend the current operational fire kit care contract, due to expire on 14th November 2007, for a further 12 months. He explained that the report was being presented to members in line with Standing Order 6.1(ii) of the Authority's Contract Standing Orders.

With a view to streamlining the procurement practices relating to the operational fire kit and in a bid to secure efficiencies when procuring the three Welsh fire and rescue services were about to enter into negotiations on a

collaborative approach in this area. As the Authority's current contract was about to expire and to enable the discussions on future arrangements to proceed without North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority being unable to enter into any new arrangements due to being tied down to a long term contract, members were asked to agree to the proposals set out in the report. It was:

Resolved: - to

- i. note the information contained within the report; and***
- ii. to approve the request to extend the current contract by 12 months from 14th November 2007.***

The meeting concluded at 12 noon.