

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Minutes of the meeting of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority held on Monday 19th March 2012 at Siambr Dafydd Orwig Chamber, Gwynedd Council, Caernarfon. Meeting commenced at 10.30am.

PRESENT

Councillor	Representing
S Frobisher (Chair)	Denbighshire County Council
A M Jones (Vice-Chair)	Anglesey County Council
L W Davies	Anglesey County Council
M Ll Davies	Denbighshire County Council
P R Edwards	Conwy County Borough Council
G C Evans	Denbighshire County Council
P C Evans	Conwy County Borough Council
E C George	Wrexham County Borough Council
G James	Flintshire County Council
N M Jones	Flintshire County Council
J A Kelly	Wrexham County Borough Council
D Mackie	Flintshire County Council
A Minshull	Flintshire County Council
J V Owen	Anglesey County Council
W T Owen	Gwynedd Council
R E Parry	Conwy County Borough Council
T Roberts	Gwynedd Council
J R Skelland	Wrexham County Borough Council
M Thomas	Conwy County Borough Council
G O Williams	Gwynedd Council

Also present:

S A Smith (Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive); C P Everett (Clerk and Monitoring Officer to the Authority); K W Finch (Treasurer to the Authority); D Docx (Deputy Chief Fire Officer); C Hanks, P Claydon and R Simmons (Assistant Chief Fire Officers); G Brandrick (Senior Operations Manager); R Fairhead (Senior Training and Development Manager); G W Griffiths (Senior Fire Safety Manager); S Morris (Corporate Planning Manager); T Williams (Corporate Communications Manager); S Forrest (Accountant, Treasurer's Department, Conwy County Borough Council); D Bond (Fleet Manager); S Jones (Equalities Adviser); A Davies (Member Liaison Officer) and S Jones (Member Liaison Assistant).

APOLOGIES

Councillor	Representing
D Barratt	Flintshire County Council
B Dunn	Flintshire County Council
M Griffith	Gwynedd Council
P Jeffares	Wrexham County Borough Council
E M Jones	Gwynedd Council
D Kelly	Wrexham County Borough Council
L Roberts	Senior Control and Business Continuity Manager

Before the meeting commenced, the Chair informed Members that this was ACFO Colin Hanks' last meeting. The Chair made a short speech thanking him for his work for NWFRS, especially on the Joint Communications Centre and Wrexham projects. On behalf of all the Members, the Chair wished him well for the future. ACFO Hanks thanked Members and colleagues for their support over the years.

The Chair informed Members that due to illness Cllr P R Edwards was replacing Cllr W P Roberts as a representative from Conwy County Borough Council.

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

1.1 None.

2 NOTICE OF URGENT MATTERS

2.1 There were no urgent matters.

3 MINUTES

3.1 The minutes of the Fire and Rescue Authority meeting held on 19th December 2011 were submitted for approval.

3.2 **RESOLVED to approve the minutes as a true and correct record of proceedings.**

4 MATTERS ARISING

4.1 There were no matters arising.

5 CHAIR'S REPORT

5.1 The Chair's report listed meetings and events attended by Cllr S Frobisher and Cllr A M Jones in their roles of Chair and Vice-Chair of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority between 16th December 2011 and 9th March 2012.

5.2 **RESOLVED to note the information provided.**

6 NATIONAL BUDGET POSITION - EFFICIENCY AND IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY OF WELSH GOVERNMENT

6.1 The Clerk reminded Members that this was a standing item on the agenda in order for Members to be made aware of any national issues that may impact on the Fire and Rescue Authority. Currently the work is around assets and procurement and therefore not impacting the FRAs.

6.2 **RESOLVED to note the information provided.**

7 LOCATION OF AERIAL LADDER PLATFORMS

- 7.1 The Chief Fire Officer introduced the report which asked Members to consider the recommendation of the Executive Panel as to the future locations of the three remaining aerial ladder platforms (ALPs). Currently ALPs were situated at Wrexham, Rhyl, Llandudno and Bangor.
- 7.2 Members were reminded that they had decided on 18th October 2010 to alter the attendance time standard of an ALP to attend an incident from 20 minutes to 30 minutes. In view of this decision, Members had been made aware that when the ALP located at Wrexham came to the end of its serviceable life in March 2012, there would be no need for it to be replaced. Therefore three ALPs would be remaining and Members had to decide where to locate those 3 appliances.
- 7.3 The Chief Fire Officer advised Members that the 30 minute attendance standard was not an absolute duty under the legislation but rather one that had been set locally by the Authority. It was noted that fire and rescue authorities are moving away from strict standards based on timings, as it often produced anomalies. The Service endeavours to respond to every incident as quickly and as efficiently as possible.
- 7.4 The Executive Panel had discussed the issue in depth at its meeting on 6th February taking into consideration advice from officers about the lowest risk options for locating the appliances across North Wales. Further information on operational considerations was included in the report submitted to this Authority meeting. The recommendation of the Executive Panel was that the remaining three ALPs be located at Wrexham, Rhyl and Bangor.
- 7.5 Concerns had been expressed by those in the vicinity of Llandudno about removing the ALP located there if the recommendation was approved. A petition with 403 names had been submitted, six pieces of correspondence from members of the public and six letters from forum chairs and politicians had been received by the Chief Fire Officer. Letters had also been published in the local press. Copies of all this correspondence had been included as appendices to the paper.
- 7.6 ACFO Claydon accompanied by the Chair and Executive Support Manager had attended a meeting of Llandudno Town Council on 13th March and a similar offer to attend a meeting had been made to Conwy County Borough Council, however, this had been declined by the Chair of the council.
- 7.7 The Clerk felt it was important to draw Members' attention to the fact that when they decided to change the attendance standard from 20 minutes to 30 minutes, they were made well aware that the consequence would be that the fourth ALP would not be replaced in March 2012. The Clerk stated that having noted local concerns, every Member had a duty to make a decision based on the interests of the whole of North Wales not their own locality. The Clerk advised that Members must satisfy themselves on the lowest risk option.

- 7.8 Cllr Mackie applauded the petition received, however, it stated in the report that the Llandudno ALP was used in the least number of incidents and Cllr Mackie felt that this had to carry some weight in the decision. From the information presented, she felt that it was essential that an ALP should be based either at Wrexham or Deeside.
- 7.9 It was suggested that the decision should be made by officers based on their knowledge and information. However, the Chief Fire Officer explained about his scheme of delegation and that it was not explicit on this issue but the CFO's judgement was that there were political elements to the issue and therefore Members should make the decision based on the information provided.
- 7.10 In response to Cllr P R Edwards' question about extending the life of an ALP, ACFO Claydon and the Fleet Manager provided further information to explain why this would not be possible. 20 years' serviceable life for an ALP was a recognised standard across the industry and beyond that there would be a high level of risk.
- 7.11 Cllr Thomas asked about the pre-determined attendance (PDA) statistics in the report, which indicated that Conwy area accounted for 60% of the PDA across North Wales. He agreed that an ALP was necessary in Bangor to cover the nuclear power station on Anglesey. He stated that the majority of high level buildings in Rhyl were houses in multiple occupation and therefore the occupants would be able to find their way around their homes in an emergency. However, the majority of high buildings in Llandudno were hotels and therefore the risk was much higher for visitors at these hotels to be trying to exit premises in the event of a fire. Therefore in his view it was essential to have an ALP located in Llandudno.
- 7.12 The Chief Fire Officer explained that the PDA was an operational way of ensuring that the Service has a response set out in advance to save the call-handler making the decision. The PDA is not the amount of times that the ALP is expected to be used. Members were informed that at the recent fatality incident in Llandudno, the ALP had been in attendance but had not been used and this was a regular occurrence in Llandudno incidents.
- 7.13 ACFO Claydon informed Members that in Llandudno, hotels along the front were accessible for the ALP but that it would not be able to reach the rear of those properties. Therefore it was essential for all hotels to have reliable fire safety information displayed clearly. One benefit of the Llandudno hotels was that they were well managed and met fire regulations requirements.
- 7.14 Members were reminded that hoteliers were responsible for ensuring they had risk assessments and plans in place to enable people to exit the premises in the event of a fire.
- 7.15 Cllr P C Evans referred to the maps in Appendix FRA1 and asked why there were numerous combinations of three locations for the ALPs but that there was not one showing Llandudno, Wrexham and Bangor. He also queried why the Wrexham ALP within its 30 minute area appeared to be able to reach as far as Ellesmere Port, however, there was no mention of the Chester ALP

coverage for North Wales and whether or not there was an agreement to use a Cheshire ALP. The Chief Fire Officer explained that the map showed the coverage of where the ALP could reach and did not mean that there was an agreement with Cheshire.

- 7.16 Cllr P C Evans was concerned that the Rhyl ALP had been mobilised but could not be crewed on 8 occasions in the last 18 months. Therefore he queried if this meant that those stations with other specialist appliances may have trouble crewing more than one specialist appliance at a time. He also asked about the maintenance of the ALPs.
- 7.17 ACFO Claydon explained that the Rhyl ALP incidents referred to had been attended from elsewhere and they had reached the incidents within 24 minutes. There are a number of stations with other specialist appliances including Llandudno and ACFO Claydon confirmed that they could all be assigned to any incident in North Wales at any one time. The maintenance of ALPs will be done on station in future to enable them to be serviced with the least possible disruption. Arrangements are also made with Cheshire to ensure that appliances in Cheshire and North Wales are not serviced on the same day.
- 7.18 Cllr M Li Davies stated that people kept referring to the ALP as an appliance to rescue people; however, according to the figures, it had been used more often to rescue animals. The Chief Fire Officer explained that it was not a 'rapid response' vehicle and that it had mainly been used in recent years as a means of getting water high above a building and it was also used in rescue incidents not involving fire.
- 7.19 Cllr A M Jones stated that a thoughtful debate had taken place and that the main consideration was about maximising cover with the resource available. Having heard all the information provided by officers his view was that the lowest risk option was to locate the ALPs at Wrexham, Rhyl and Bangor.
- 7.20 Cllr P R Edwards asked Members to consider the age of the buildings in Llandudno, as the majority of hotels are of a Victorian age. Also, the age of the majority of occupants in the area, there are many high-rise flats in Rhos on Sea which are now occupied by elderly people. He also felt that there was a high risk that ALPs would not reach the Conwy area within 30 minutes due to possible traffic and road works on the A55, which could have a severe impact on the time it took to reach incidents. Cllr P R Edwards also stated that there was very real concern in the community about this issue and that people were very worried about what will happen when there is a serious incident requiring this resource.
- 7.21 Cllr J V Owen asked whether Members were there to serve certain parts or the whole of North Wales. His understanding was that the Authority had to consider the best interests of the whole of North Wales and that these appliances should be based in areas where they are able to respond to emergencies within a reasonable timescale. It was not a cost cutting exercise, as there was one budget for the whole of North Wales and Cllr Owen felt that the people of North Wales would be more concerned if resources had to be disposed of across the region in order to have an ALP to

provide coverage for one area. He accepted the advice of officers and agreed about the responsibility of hotel owners. Cllr Owen reminded Members of the work done on fire prevention and all the HFSCs undertaken and hoped that Members would remember that they were to support the whole of North Wales not merely their own areas.

7.22 The Chair concluded the discussion by thanking Members for the good debate held at this meeting and at previous meetings and asked for a proposal.

7.23 The Vice Chair proposed that Members agree the future disposition of Aerial Ladder Platforms as recommended by the Executive Panel namely at Bangor, Rhyl and Wrexham as the option of lowest risk. Cllr Mackie seconded this proposal.

7.24 In favour: 16.
Against: 4, namely, Councillors P C Evans, P R Edwards, R E Parry and M Thomas.
Abstentions: None.

7.25 **RESOLVED, by a majority vote, to agree the future disposition of Aerial Ladder Platforms as recommended by the Executive Panel namely at Bangor, Rhyl and Wrexham as the option of lowest risk to serve the communities of North Wales.**

8 STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN: THE EQUALITY PLAN ACT 2010 (STATUTORY DUTIES) (WALES) REGULATIONS 2011

8.1 ACFO Simmons presented the report which sought Members' approval for the Strategic Equality Plan in response to the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011.

8.2 The Strategic Equality Plan sets out North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority's equality objectives in response to the legislative requirements of the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011. Publication of the Single Equality Plan is a legal requirement which will be regulated by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC). The role of the EHRC under the new law is to protect, enforce and promote equality. This role will be discharged through the provision of guidance, regulation and enforcement activity.

8.3 The plan will be publicised and promoted both internally and externally to raise awareness of the work the Authority is doing. Activity will be monitored to assess the impact on the public and on employees of the progress made and reported annually to the Authority.

8.4 The Chief Fire Officer informed Members that the Equalities Adviser had been instrumental in producing the document. Sue Jones, who was present at the meeting, had been responsible along with her counterparts in Mid and West and South Wales, for producing the document, which would enable the Authority to comply with its statutory obligations.

- 8.5 **RESOLVED to**
(i) note the content of the report;
(ii) approve the Strategic Equality Plan for publication on the Service's website.
- 9 PROVISIONAL OUTTURN 2011-2012
- 9.1 The Treasurer informed Members of the estimated provisional outturn for the financial year 2011-2012. The estimated underspend of £634,731 is a result of the Authority managing its budget carefully during the year.
- 9.2 The report contained detailed information about all the variances to budget and Members had no further questions.
- 9.3 **RESOLVED to note the projected underspend of £634,731.**
- 10 DISCRETIONAL COMPENSATION FOR THE EARLY TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT
- 10.1 ACFO Simmons presented the report which detailed progress in the development of a local policy on the exercise of discretionary powers in respect of compensation for the early termination of employment. This is available to members of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992 (FPS) and the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2006 (NFPS), or those employees eligible to join such schemes.
- 10.2 In the report, Members were asked to approve the Scheme's specific details. However, ACFO Simmons explained that the Wales Audit Office had raised concern about what they considered to be an element of risk with the scheme and they had been requested to put their opinion in writing. Advice received from employment law advisers was that the scheme was legal. It was also noted that two other FRSs had previously used a similar scheme.
- 10.3 The Treasurer advised Members to approve the scheme in principle, and when the final advice was received, officers could continue with their work one way or the other. The Treasurer confirmed that he would need to be satisfied that the whole proposed scheme is legal and proportionate before it progressed further.
- 10.4 Members were reminded that they had previously approved the budget plan which included the loss of 22 firefighter posts in the structure and approved an enhanced voluntary severance scheme in the hope of avoiding compulsory redundancies. The Treasurer further explained that some careful financial planning had been done to ensure that the Authority could fund the scheme but that if the situation occurred that it was beyond the Authority's powers then he would not allow it to proceed.
- 10.5 The Clerk also advised that Members should confirm their intent to implement the scheme and that they entrusted officers to progress the scheme at the earliest possible time subject to receiving assurance about the legalities of the scheme.

- 10.6 The Vice-Chair paid tribute to the work done by officers and that it was important to have the political will across the Authority to recognise the work being done; he reiterated that no one wanted compulsory redundancies and that having a scheme that suitably honoured those that had worked for the Service over the years was the fairest way of dealing with the situation. Cllr P R Edwards agreed with the Vice-Chair's sentiments and proposed the recommendations with the amendment that the scheme was agreed in principle until confirmation had been received.
- 10.7 **RESOLVED to approve, in principle, the locally agreed voluntary severance scheme, including the specific criteria of that scheme, for those employees who are members of the FPS or NFPS or those employees eligible to join such schemes.**
- 11 PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS, TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY
- 11.1 The report presented to Members the Prudential Indicators, Treasury Management Strategy, Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy for 2012/13.
- 11.2 The report had been presented to the Audit Committee on 30th January 2012 in order for the contents to be reviewed before submission to the Fire and Rescue Authority. Some concern had been expressed regarding the level of capital expenditure on estates and it was agreed that a separate report be presented to the Fire and Rescue Authority reminding Members of the approved capital strategy. The Audit Committee had no other major observations or could find any major risks in the report and would recommend it be approved by the Authority.
- 11.3 **RESOLVED to approve each of the four key elements as follows:**
- (i) Prudential Indicators;**
 - (ii) Treasury Management Strategy for 2012/13;**
 - (iii) Investment Strategy;**
 - (iv) Minimum Revenue Provision Policy.**
- 12 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WELSH FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITIES' NATIONAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
- 12.1 The Chief Fire Officer presented the reports which asked Members to confirm their approval for the establishment of the National Issues Committee.
- 12.2 At the December 2011 meeting, Members had discussed a document detailing various strategic options relating to the structural arrangements for the Fire and Rescue Authorities in Wales. Following on from that meeting, further research and analysis had been undertaken and the terms of reference for the National Issues Committee was now presented to Members for approval.
- 12.3 Establishing a Wales FRS' National Issues Committee would further improve collaborative working, service delivery and sustained service improvement. The Committee's aim would be to develop and implement improved

arrangements for the co-ordinated delivery of collaborative work. It would maximise efficiencies, prevent missed collaborative opportunities and provide a vehicle for long term service improvements across the three Services.

- 12.4 Cllr M Li Davies congratulated officers on the terms of reference document and Members **RESOLVED to**
- (i) confirm their agreement to establish a non-statutory National Issues Committee to deal with collaborative issues; and**
 - (ii) agree the terms of reference attached to the report.**

13 SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENT AND RISK REDUCTION OBJECTIVES FOR 2012-13

13.1 The report summarised for Members the agreed Improvement Objectives for 2012-13 as contained in the Authority's published Improvement and Risk Reduction Plan 2010-11 to 2012-13.

13.2 The Deputy Chief Fire Officer explained that the existing objectives were carried forward into the new financial year but with different actions. Objectives 1-4 are core to service delivery and objective 5 seeks to improve the Service with regards to sustainability issues. Objective 6 will be dealt with as part of the Strategic Equality Plan discussed earlier in the meeting and officers will continue to try to improve business continuity management to meet objective 7. Objective 8 is the additional objective agreed by Members to reduce the overall expenditure and to operate within a frozen budget until 2013-14.

13.3 **RESOLVED to note the eight improvement objectives for the year 2012-13.**

14 TEMPORARY DELEGATION OF POWERS BEFORE THE ANNUAL MEETING

14.1 The Clerk presented the report which requested delegation of powers from the end of office of the present members of the fire and rescue authority to the first meeting of the fire and rescue authority after the elections.

14.2 The local authority elections will be held on 3rd May and councillors will continue in office until first thing on Tuesday 8th May 2012 when the newly elected councillors take office. The same applies to the present Fire and Rescue Authority members, but the date of their replacement depends on how quickly the county and county borough councils make appointments.

14.3 Between Tuesday 8th May and the Annual Meeting, scheduled for Monday 18th June, there is no mechanism in place for any decision that would normally fall to elected members to be taken by them. Therefore an appropriate delegation needs to be put in place to cover the interregnum so that any decision that would normally fall to members and that cannot reasonably be delayed until the first meeting of the Fire and Rescue Authority after the elections in May can be dealt with.

14.4 **RESOLVED that all the powers of the Fire and Rescue Authority, its committees and its office holders be delegated to:**

- (i) **the Chief Fire Officer, in consultation with the Clerk and Treasurer, for the period from 8th May 2012 until either the date on which the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority elected in June 2011 are reappointed to the Fire and Rescue Authority or the first meeting of the Fire and Rescue Authority on 18th June 2012 if neither of them is so reappointed, whichever date is the earlier;**
- (ii) **the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority if one or both of them are reappointed to the Fire and Rescue Authority from the date on which they are so reappointed until the first meeting of the Fire and Rescue Authority on 18th June 2012.**

14.5 **ALSO, that these delegations shall apply only so far as such powers relate to decisions that cannot reasonably be delayed until the date of that first meeting.**

15 PAY POLICY STATEMENT

15.1 The report was presented to inform Members of the requirement for the Authority to produce a Pay Policy Statement on an annual basis under Section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011. Members were also asked to approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2012-13.

15.2 Following the publication of the Hutton report in March 2011 which made several recommendations for promoting pay fairness in the public sector, authorities in England and Wales are now required to prepare pay policy statements on an annual basis. These statements must be approved by the full council/authority and published as soon as is reasonably practicable after approval.

15.3 Pay policy statements must be prepared in accordance with part 1, chapter 8 of the Localism Act 2011 and must set out the Authority's policies for the financial year relating to the remuneration of its chief officers, lowest paid employees and relationship between remuneration of its chief officers and those employees who are not chief officers.

15.4 **RESOLVED to approve the pay policy statement for the coming financial year 2012/13.**

16 THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

16.1 The report was presented to ask Members to consider the annual report from the Standards Committee and to ratify the appointment of a new independent member onto the Standards Committee.

16.2 There had been no issues of concern with regard to members of the Authority during the year; therefore no matters had been referred to the committee for investigation or decision.

16.3 Following the end of Simon Fysh's term of office on the committee, interviews had been held to select a new independent member. Members were asked to ratify the appointment of Antony Young, the successful candidate, as an independent member of the Standards Committee.

16.4 **RESOLVED to**

- (i) note the Standards Committee's annual report; and**
- (ii) endorse the appointment of Antony Young as an independent member on the Standards Committee.**

17 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES

17.1 Members were informed that the Independent Remuneration Panel's Annual Report had been published. The report details changes to payments to Members that will come into effect on the date of the annual meeting on 18th June.

17.2 **RESOLVED to note that the following will be implemented on 18th June 2012:**

Salaries

- (i) a Basic Salary rate of £1,350 per annum for a time commitment of 16 days per year will be payable to members other than the chair and deputy chair of the Authority and the chair of the Audit Committee;**
- (ii) the chair of the Authority will be paid a Welsh FRA Senior Salary aligned with the Band 3 salary (£10,085);**
- (iii) the deputy chair of the Authority will be paid a Senior Salary aligned with the Band 4 salary (£5,095);**
- (iv) the chair of the Audit Committee will be paid a Senior Salary of £3,400.**

Independent Members

- (v) Independent members of the Standards Committee will be paid a daily fee capped at a maximum of 4 full days per year on the following rate:**
 - **Standards committee Chair £256 daily fee (£128 for half day)**
 - **Independent member £198 daily fee (£99 for half day);**

Travel and Subsistence Allowances

- (vi) care allowance up to a maximum of £403 per month;**
- (vii) mileage rate at 45p per mile in accordance with HMRC rates;**
- (viii) subsistence rates remain unchanged.**

18 MEMBERS' INDUCTION PLANS POST-ELECTION

18.1 Members were informed about induction arrangements for new and returning members post-election.

18.2 Following a successful induction day held in 2008 for new and returning members, it is proposed to hold a similar day after this year's election. Members will receive 'core' induction training as part of their appointment to the relevant local authority and the induction to be held on 14th June will be specifically to discuss the role of the Fire and Rescue Authority.

18.3 **RESOLVED to note the induction and training arrangements for new and returning members post-election.**

19 REGIONAL SAFER COMMUNITIES BOARD

19.1 The Clerk presented the report which contained the recommendation of the North Wales Regional Leadership Board to form a Regional Safer Communities Board and the underpinning Partnership Agreement for the Board. As part of the North Wales Partnership Review, it had been agreed to establish a Regional Safer Communities Board for North Wales.

19.2 Since the report had been written, concerns had been expressed about the board having decision making powers with statutory commissioning powers. It had therefore been decided to downgrade from a joint committee status to a committee without statutory powers, which may change again once the police and crime commissioner was in place.

19.3 Cllr P C Evans asked who would be representing the Fire and Rescue Authority on the Board, and the Clerk confirmed that some details on membership issues needed to be resolved by the date of the annual meeting.

19.4 **RESOLVED to**

- (i) note that the Board will not have a formal joint committee status but rather will be recognised as a committee without statutory powers;**
- (ii) approve the proposal to create a Regional Safer Communities Board and that the organisation fully participates in the Board from July 2012 onwards, where appropriate;**
- (ii) agree to appoint to the Board at the Annual Meeting in June;**
- (iii) endorse the Partnership Agreement which accompanied the report.**

20 AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS

20.1 The Clerk presented the report which recommended immediate maintenance amendments to the Authority's Standing Orders and a proposal to conduct a full review of the Standing Orders at the annual meeting in June.

20.2 Below is summary of the proposed changes:

- to have flexibility around the dates of full meetings
- include information about the Audit Committee meetings
- amend the Standing Orders to reflect the new title of the vice-chair to deputy chair as specified in the Independent Remuneration Panel's report.

20.3 **RESOLVED to**

- (i) approve the amendments to the Authority's Standing Orders as outlined in paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 of the report;**
- (ii) note that the Standing Orders will be fully reviewed in time for the Annual Meeting in June.**

21 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

21.1 The Clerk advised Members that the police and crime commissioner elections will be held in mid-November. The role of police and crime commissioner will have formal commissioning powers and decisions over national budgets for community safety. Details of the role and how the police crime panel will work are still being developed. In North Wales, Conwy will be the host council and will provide secretarial support role. Further information will be provided at the annual meeting.

21.2 **RESOLVED to note the information provided.**

22 MINUTES OF MEETINGS

22.1 The minutes of the following meetings were submitted for information:

- Audit Committee meeting held on 30th January
- Executive Panel meeting held on 6th February.

22.2 **RESOLVED to note the minutes for information.**

PART II

23 CAPITAL STRATEGY AND PROGRAMME

23.1 ACFO Hanks presented the report which gave Members an update on the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority's capital strategy and programme.

23.2 Members were reminded that since 'Prudential Borrowing' became available as a means of funding capital projects the Service had planned investment into the estate on a 3 yearly basis. This is part of the long term estates strategy to ensure that all NWFRS buildings are fit for purpose and brought up to a level which would require only annual maintenance costs in future years. The proposed Wrexham Fire and Ambulance Station project is one of the last key objectives of the capital programme strategy which is reflected in the substantial investment into this new building during the next 3 year period.

23.3 Collaboration with other emergency services in North Wales is an important aspect of the capital strategy as it will reduce the building cost and future running costs. Funding will be available in 2012/13 for the Nefyn fire and police station and discussions are ongoing regarding the potential purchase of a plot for the Tywyn fire and police station.

23.4 Members were also informed that the DDA and Equality Compliance works on all 23 stations will be completed by July 2012.

23.5 **RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.**