



AGENDA ITEM: 14

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

21 March 2016

NWFRA REPRESENTATION ON PUBLIC SERVICES BOARDS

Report by Colin Everett, Clerk

Purpose of Report

1. To propose the Chief Fire Officer as North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority's representative on North Wales Public Services Boards.

Introduction

2. With effect from 01 April 2016, the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 will establish a statutory board, known as a Public Services Board (PSB), in each local authority area in Wales.
3. PSBs must act jointly to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of their area by contributing to the achievement of pre-defined "well-being goals". The Act makes provision (if certain conditions are met) for two or more PSBs to agree to merge if they so wish, or be directed to do so by Welsh Ministers.
4. There will be four statutory members of PSBs - the Local Authority, the Local Health Board, the Fire and Rescue Authority and Natural Resources Wales. All four must be in attendance for a meeting to be quorate.
5. In addition to the statutory members, the Act lists certain other bodies and persons who must be invited to participate in the board's activity. These 'invited participants' are not compelled to accept the invitation, and even if they do they do not become members of the PSB.

6. The third category of participant is that of 'other partner' – organisations who have a material interest in the wellbeing of the area and who exercise functions 'of a public nature'. It is for each PSB to consider and decide which of these it wishes to invite, and these partners, too, may choose to accept or decline the invitation.

Information

7. The Act makes a number of provisions about PSBs, including who should attend to represent each organisation¹.
8. Under the Act, Welsh fire and rescue authorities may designate:
a) the chair, or b) the chief officer, or c) both, to represent them on the PSBs.
9. The designated person may attend in person, or may designate another person to attend in their place.
10. Some functions, however, must come to the Authority for approval. For example: "In the case of each Local Health Board, each Welsh fire and rescue authority and the Natural Resources Body for Wales, the function of approving the local well-being plan for publication may only be exercised at a meeting of the body in question"².

Recommendation

11. That members nominate the Chief Fire Officer to represent North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority on the North Wales Public Services Boards. This is to ensure a consistent approach from the most senior officer of the Service.

¹ Schedule 3.

² Section 43 (6).