

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
EXECUTIVE PANEL

Minutes of the **Executive Panel** of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority held on Monday 18 September 2023 at St Asaph Fire and Rescue Headquarters and virtually via Zoom. Meeting commenced at 14.00hrs.

Councillor

Cllr Dylan Rees (Chair)
Cllr Paul Cunningham (Deputy Chair)
Cllr Chris Hughes
Cllr Gareth Sandilands
Cllr Carol Beard
Cllr Chrissy Gee
Cllr Dale Selvester
Cllr Gareth A Roberts
Cllr Rondo Roberts
Cllr Rob Triggs
Cllr Paul Rogers
Cllr John Ifan Jones

Representing

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

Also present:

Dawn Docx
Stuart Millington
Helen MacArthur
Anthony Jones
Paul Kay

Chief Fire Officer
Assistant Chief Fire Officer
Assistant Chief Fire Officer
Area Manager
Area Manager

Dafydd Edwards
Tracey Williams
Gareth Owens
George Jones
Ffion Evans
Steve Morris

Treasurer
Head of Corporate Communications
Clerk and Monitoring Officer
Atebol - Translator
Executive Assistant
Head of ICT

1 **APOLOGIES**

Councillor

Representing

ABSENT

Councillor

Representing

Cllr Alan Hughes

Denbighshire County Council

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 There were no declarations of interest to record.

3 NOTICE OF URGENT MATTERS

3.1 There was no notice of urgent matters.

4 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 JUNE 2023

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2023 were submitted for approval.

4.2 **RESOLVED to:**

- i) approve the minutes as a true and correct record of the meeting held.**

5 MATTERS ARISING

5.1 There were no matters arising.

Agenda item 11 from the previous meeting had been raised by the FBU representatives in the pre-meeting with the Chair and Chief and they had asked for an update on pensions.

ACFO McArthur responded that WG have considered all of the responses to the consultation and have drafted the final legislation moving pensions into the new format. NWFRS are in the process of communicating with individual members and will be pulling together FAQ.

6. EMERGENCY COVER REVIEW – RESPONSES TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION

6.1 AM Jones presented the paper to the Members and explained that the purpose of the report was to provide Members with an update on the progress and the activities of the emergency cover review. AM Jones proceed to go through the report for the Members and updated Members that the Public Consultation had been extended until the 30th of September 2023. This was the result of meeting the governance arrangements of councils, in addition to requests from the public.

6.2 Members were updated that the group had met on five occasions between March 2023 and June 2023.

6.3 Background update of the consultation was provided. The Service has engaged The Consultation Institute, which is a not for profit organisation. The Institute have provided us with advice and guidance,

enabling us to provide best practice. We are on track to gain “Good” in quality assurance. The Consultation Institute has provided positive feedback thus far.

- 6.4 Members were updated on the 3 options that the Fire Authority agreed to consult on.
- 6.5 Members were informed that the draft consultation report would be presented to the ECR Fire Authority Working Group on the 5th of October. With the final report being presented to Members at the meeting of the full Authority on the 16th of October 2023.
- 6.6 CFO Docx updated Members that as of last week the final Public meeting had been held. CFO Docx gave appreciation to local communities for their support and engagement and to everyone who has publicised the events.
- 6.7 **RESOLVED to:**
i) Members noted the contents of this report

7. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ASSURANCE REPORT

- 7.1 ACFO Millington presented the report to Members. The purpose of the report was to provide assurance to the Executive Panel that the Service's processes for handling information requests submitted under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is robust and minimises the risk of a data breach involving personal information.
- 7.2 ACFO Millington gave Members background to the report and updated Members that there had been a number of significant and serious data breaches by public authorities recently.
- 7.3 ACFO Millington went through the processes that we have in place; and brought to Members attention that we have a Data Protection Officer in place whom is the initial point of reference. Members attention was drawn to point 5 i) through to iii) which gave details on the FOI process.
- 7.4 Members were informed that the DPO was pleased to be able to advise that there have been no NWFRS data breaches reported as a result of inappropriate release of personal data in response to an FOI request.
- 7.5 **RESOLVED to:**
i) Members noted the contents of the report

8. DRAFT ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT 22/23

- 8.1 AM Jones presented the draft assessment to Members for approval of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority's performance during the period of 2022/23. This is in relation to progress towards achieving its long-term Improvement and Well-Being objectives, medium-term Equality Objectives; and the compliance with applicable Welsh Language standards. Members were informed that the Performance Assessment 22/23 would be publicised on the Authority's website by the 30th of September.
- 8.2 AM Jones went through the assessment with Members and drew their attention to point 7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14 and 15.
- 8.3 Cllr Rob Triggs praised the work that had been carried out by Safe and Well Check teams in the local area after an incident in Tal-y-Bont. He wished to pass on his congratulations to everyone.
- 8.4 Cllr John Ifan Jones enquired what "some" Welsh Language skills actually meant, and what steps have been taken to improve upon this. His question was answered by Tracey Williams Head of Corporate Communications and Welsh Language.
- 8.5 **RESOLVED to:**
- i) Members approved the draft assessment of the Authority's performance in 2022/23 (subject to minor additions and corrections if required) for publication on the Authority's website by 30 September; and**
 - ii) note the Service's intention to publish a simple summary version of the key elements of the assessment report.**

9. PERFORMANCE MONITORING Q1 REPORT 23/24

- 9.1 AM Kay provided Members with an overview of the Performance Monitoring report.
- 9.2 AM Kay provided information on incident activity and brought paragraphs 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9 and 10 to Member attention.
- 9.3 Members were informed that 4,439 Safe and Well Checks had been carried out across North Wales during this quarter.
- 9.4 Members were updated that there had been zero deaths due to accidental fire in quarter 1.
- 9.5 Members were updated that there had been a decreased number of attendance of Wildfires

- 9.6 Members were informed that several campaigns had been running during quarter 1 which had been successful.
- 9.7 Chair Dylan Rees brought paragraph 11 to the Members attention with regards to pump availability and the target is to have 18 a day, and that has been met. Chair raised that it doesn't show all of the hard work and re deployment that goes in behind the scenes everyday to achieve this level of emergency cover.
- 9.8 Item number 12 Sickness Absence it was noted that this data is a new item. Something that members need to be aware of. Members were informed that Internal Audit are currently undertaking an audit of the Sickness Absence processes.
- 9.9 Members highlighted to what additional overtime expenditure had resulted from the sickness absence in terms of providing any cover that was required. ACFO McArthur stated that she didn't have those figures to hand but would look into it.
- 9.10 Cllr Rob Triggs wished to praise the fabulous work that has been carried out by Lee Parson with regards to the "Biker Down" project and asked if it would be possible to send thanks from the Fire Authority. CFO Docx stated that this would be possible.
- 9.0 **RESOLVED to:**
i) **Members noted the contents of the Report**

10 URGENT MATTERS

- 10.1 There were no urgent matters to raise.

Thanks, were given to Members for their attendance.

Meeting closed: 14:38 hrs