

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE PANEL

Minutes of the Executive Panel meeting of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority held on Monday 29 July 2019 at the Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, St Asaph. Meeting commenced at 2.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillors:

P Lewis (Chair)	Conwy
D Rees (Deputy Chair)	Anglesey
R Griffiths	Anglesey
J B Hughes	Gwynedd
G G Williams	Gwynedd
R Parry	Conwy
A Tansley	Conwy
M Ll Davies	Denbighshire
M Bateman	Flintshire
R Roberts	Wrexham

ALSO PRESENT

S A Smith (Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive); C Everett (Clerk); K Finch (Treasurer); A Hughes for Item 6, E Lake, N Selwyn and S Frank (Wales Audit Office); S Morris and H MacArthur (Assistant Chief Officers); K Roberts (Assistant Chief Fire Officer); T Williams (Corporate Communications Manager); N Sion (Translator); D Davies (Secretariat/Minute Taker).

Apologies

Councillors:

A Davies	Denbighshire
M Dixon	Wrexham

The Chair thanked Councillor M Ll Davies for his contribution to the Authority as Chair.

The Chair received and approved a request from A Hughes, Wales Audit Office to change the order of the Agenda.

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1.1 There were no declarations of interest.

2 NOTICE OF URGENT MATTERS

2.1 There were no urgent matters.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 MAY 2019

3.1 The minutes of the Executive Panel meeting held on 13 May 2019 were submitted for approval.

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

4 MATTERS ARISING

4.1 The Chief Fire Officer provided a verbal update to advise and reassure Members of the Service's plans in relation to the UK leaving the European Union without an agreement.

4.2 Given recent developments the Service will now bring plans forward to reconvene internal Strategic Gold planning meetings following the recommencement of the regional meetings.

4.3 RESOLVED to note the information provided and to receive further updates when available.

5 APPROVAL OF STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2018/19

5.1 The Treasurer introduced the report presenting the audited Statement of Accounts for 2018/19, the Annual Governance Statement, and the Audit of Financial Statement Report from the Auditor General for Wales. The Treasurer thanked officers for their work with the Wales Audit Office.

5.2 The Treasurer reminded Members of the requirement for them to approve the audited accounts and annual governance statement by the revised date of 31 July 2019, and informed Members that the Audit Committee, in its role of scrutinising finance reports and making recommendations to the Executive Panel, had considered these three items earlier today. ACO MacArthur confirmed the Audit Committee's recommendation to the Executive Panel.

5.3 The Treasurer led Members through the contents of the three reports and answered Members' questions.

5.4 ACO MacArthur reported on the key issues to note.

- 5.5 RESOLVED to:**
- (i) note the recommendations of the Audit Committee;**
 - (ii) approve the audited outturn position and performance as detailed in the 2018/19 Statement of Accounts;**
 - (iii) approve the governance arrangements and action plan as outlined in the 2018/19 Annual Governance Statement;**
 - (iv) note the report of the Auditor General for Wales which confirms an unqualified audit opinion.**

The meeting was adjourned for the signing of the accounts.

6 WALES AUDIT OFFICE

- 6.1 Following a request by the Wales Audit Office their reports were taken in a different order from that set out in the agenda.
- 6.2 N Selwyn presented the Annual Improvement Report by the Auditor General, issued June 2019 which confirmed that the Authority is likely to comply with the requirements of the Local Government Measure 2009 during 2019/20.
- 6.3 E Lake and S Frank gave a presentation of the findings and conclusions of a Wellbeing of Future Generations Act examination and audit of NWFRA's performance in relation to partnerships and collaborations in 2018/19.
- 6.4 N Selwyn introduced the Project Brief for 2019/20 which sets out a proposed integrated package of performance audits to be completed in this financial year, these being:
- Performance and improvement assessment work in line with the requirements of the Local Government Measure 2009;
 - A review of the Authority's approach and management involving stakeholders when proposing service changes; and
 - A light-touch verification of progress with relevant areas for improvement identified in WAO's Wellbeing of Future Generations Act examination and audit of how well NWFRA was performing in relation to partnerships and collaborations in 2018/19.
- 6.5 RESOLVED to note:**
- (i) the contents of the Annual Improvement Report 2019;**
 - (ii) the WAO findings and conclusions of the WAO examination and audit of partnerships and collaborations;**
 - (iii) the Project Brief**

7 MONITORING PERFORMANCE – QUARTER 1 OF 2019/20

7.1 ACO Morris introduced the report summarising NWFRS activity and performance against improvement objectives during the first three months of 2019/20.

7.2 ACO Morris provided detail from the information provided in the report and responded to Members observations and questions in relation to the recording of calls, attendance at domestic automatic fire alarms and road traffic collisions.

7.3 RESOLVED to note the contents of the performance monitoring report.

8 NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY PUBLIC CONSULTATION 2019

8.1 ACO Morris introduced the report presenting, for approval, a near-final draft of the Authority's 2019 public consultation document.

8.2 The Authority accepted the Executive Panel's recommendation to develop a new Environmental Strategy for April 2020 onwards. The draft consultation document invites anyone with an interest to submit comments to the Authority about what should be contained in the new Strategy before the closing date of 4 October 2019.

8.3 The response to the consultation will be reported to the Authority for consideration.

8.4 RESOLVED to approve the content of the draft public consultation document as part of the Authority's agreed public engagement and consultation strategy 2019.

9 GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITIES IN WALES

9.1 Following a recent meeting with the Deputy Minister for Housing and Local Government, Hannah Blythyn AM and the subsequent written statement published on 18 July 2019 the CFO provided a verbal update on the latest developments in relation to the White Paper proposing changes to the Governance and Finance Arrangements for FRAs in Wales.

9.2 A further written statement from the Deputy Minister is expected in the autumn.

9.3 RESOLVED to note the update.

PART II

10 FIREFIGHTERS' PAY

10.1 The CFO provided Members with a verbal briefing in relation to the latest information from the National Employers on the firefighters' pay negotiations for 2019/20 and the discussions regarding broadening the role of the firefighter.

10.2 RESOLVED to note the update.

The above minutes, pending any inclusions shown, are approved as a true and correct record of proceedings.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____