SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

**MINUTES OF THE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY MEETING**

**HELD ON MONDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2019, 09:00HRS AT**

**SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS**

**21. PRESENT:**

**Councillor Arrived Left Authority**

D T Davies (Chair) Caerphilly

D Ali Cardiff

L Brown Monmouthshire

M Colbran Merthyr Tydfil

P Drake Vale of Glamorgan

S Ebrahim 09:50 Cardiff

S Evans Torfaen

J Gauden Torfaen

A Hussey Caerphilly

H Jarvie Vale of Glamorgan

D Naughton Cardiff

S Pickering Rhondda Cynon Taff

R Shaw Bridgend

H Thomas Newport

J Williams Cardiff

D White Bridgend

J Harries 09:25 Rhondda Cynon Taff

M Spencer Newport

C Elsbury Caerphilly

**APOLOGIES:**

J Holt Blaenau Gwent

S Bradwick (Deputy Chair) Rhondda Cynon Taff

A Lister Cardiff

V Smith Monmouthshire

**ABSENT:**

A Roberts Rhondda Cynon Taff

**OFFICERS PRESENT:-** CFO H Jakeway, DCO S Chapman – Deputy Chief Officer & Monitoring Officer, ACFO D Rose – Director of Service Delivery, Ms A Reed – Director of People Services, Mr C Barton – Treasurer, Ms S Watkins – Head of Business Support & Deputy Monitoring Officer

**22. PRESENTATION: 999 WEEKEND**

The Home Safety Support Manager provided a detailed presentation on the 999 Event taking place on Saturday 21 September until Sunday 22 September at Cardiff Bay. The Service will be hosting the weekend in collaboration with South Wales Police and the Welsh Ambulance Service. It was noted that South Wales Police will also be celebrating its 50 year anniversary. CFO Jakeway thanked the Home Safety Support Manager for all of her hard work and dedication in ensuring the smooth planning leading up to the event.

**RESOLVED THAT**

Members noted the details of the event and thanked the Home Safety Support Manager for providing the presentation and for all her hard work leading up to the event.

**23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Each Member declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in each agenda item which affected their Authority.

**24. CHAIR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**STEVE ELSE**

The Chair advised Members of the tragic loss of Station Manager Steve Else on Friday last week which has shaken the Service badly. CFO Jakeway informed Members that Steve joined the Service in 2003 and was a very competent, compassionate and caring member of staff. Steve leaves a wife and three children and all our thoughts are with his family at this sad time. Funeral arrangements will be provided, when known. Members then conducted a minute’s silence as a mark of respect to Steve.

**COUNCILLOR KEN CRITCHLEY**

The Chair advised that due to Councillor Critchley’s recent ill health, Newport Council have made a temporary replacement until Councillor Critchley is in a position to decide if he wishes to continue to serve on the Authority. Members wished Councillor Critchley well in his recovery. Members also extended a warm welcome to Councillor Mark Spencer to the Fire Authority.

**MEMBER TRAINING**

Following a majority consensus to reschedule the Member training, the Chair reminded Members that the training would take place immediately following today’s meeting for all Members able to attend.

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

The Chair informed Members that a diary reminder note has been provided which covers the Emergency Services weekend and the official opening of the CFBT Facility at Cardiff Gate Training Centre on Thursday 10th October 2019.

**NATIONAL PAY AWARDS**

The Chair informed Members, for information, that the national cost of living pay award for grey and gold book staff has been agreed at 2%. In line with the Authority’s Approved Pay Policy, this will be applied for relevant staff.

**WHITE PAPER UPDATE**

The Chair advised that he is scheduled to meet with the Deputy Minister and Welsh FRA Chairs on 10 October. A detailed update will be provided to Members following the meeting.

**UKRO AND WORLD RESCUE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Chair was pleased to report that following last year’s success at both the UKRO and World Rescue Championships, SWFRS teams have again taken the title of overall world champions, the highest standard of any other Fire Authority. The successes of the SWFRS team at UKRO 2019 were;

Standard Scenario – Bridgend team 1st

Rapid Scenario – Bridgend team 2nd

Complex Scenario – Bridgend team 1st

Officer in charge – 1st place by Roger Magan

Technical Challenge – Bridgend team 1st

Medical Scenario – Les Evans and Ian Buckley took 2nd place.

**25. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The following minutes were received and accepted as a true record of proceedings:-

* Finance, Audit & Performance Management Committee on 10 June 2019.
* Fire & Rescue Authority on 29 July 2019.

**26. UPDATE ON ACTIONS**

The Deputy Chief Officer provided a brief update on action number 18.1.14.

**27. REPORTS FOR DECISION**

**27.1 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS), RESERVE STRATEGY AND BUDGET UPDATE**

The Treasurer provided Members with an update on the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Reserve Strategy of the Authority together with an update on the Revenue Budget for 2020/21. He also provided Members with an analysis of potential implications for our funders and the external factors that will impact upon the service budget requirements.

The Treasurer also advised of increased costs as a result of changes implemented to firefighters’ pension schemes, which are higher than expected. The shortfall will be picked up as part of the budget monitoring and could result in a 5% increase to local authority budgets, which is substantial. The Authority will seek a Welsh Government pension grant in this regard. In the event of the unavailability of a grant, possible scenarios of contribution costs were discussed in detail. The Authority will provide as much notice as possible on any changes to unitary authority contributions.

Following a question and answer session on the 2% pay rise, it was confirmed that those costs had already been budgeted for in this year’s budget and would not result in increased contributions from local authorities this year.

It was also confirmed that meetings with senior members from each unitary authority have been arranged to share information and provide awareness.

Councillor White asked whether there was anything Members could do to put pressure on Welsh Government in relation to pension grant funding for the pension shortfall. The Treasurer advised that the Authority has requested a further contribution in this regard however, any pressure that Members can provide would be appreciated.

Councillor Williams stressed the limited timeframe for a resolution for budget approval by February. The Treasurer advised that indications will be provided at the December Fire Authority meeting for each unitary authority to consider, as part of the formal consultation undertaken every year.

The information shared with Members today will be circulated to all Treasurers at each unitary authority.

**RESOLVED THAT**

Members agreed the report content as the basis of its financial planning framework.

**27.2 2018/19 ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW**

The Treasurer presented the results of treasury management activities for the year ending 31 March 2019, in accordance with the Authority’s approved Treasury Management Strategy, for Members’ consideration.

Members’ attention was drawn to the Authority’s capital expenditure, funding figures, gross borrowing and the Treasury position as at 31 March 2019, which were explained in detail.

**RESOLVED THAT**

Following consideration, Members agreed to note the annual treasury management review for 2018/19.

**28. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

**28.1 UPDATE ON FIRE MEDICAL RESPONSE**

The Director of Service Delivery provided Members with an update on Fire Medical Response across the South Wales Fire & Rescue Service area. He further advised that the Service continues to train all personnel in trauma response.

Councillor Brown queried whether firefighters at Chepstow could continue fire medical response on a voluntary basis. The Director of Service Delivery confirmed that the Service will fully support firefighters at Chepstow, who wished to continue providing fire medical response on a voluntary basis.

**RESOLVED THAT**

28.1.1 Members noted the contents of the report.

28.1.2 The Director of Service Delivery pass on the Chair’s thanks to the crew at Chepstow for their continued support.

**28.2 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Deputy Chief Officer provided a brief overview of the Forward Work Programme for 2019/2020.

**RESOLVED THAT**

Members agreed to note the Forward Work Programme for 2019/2020.

**29. TO CONSIDER ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT (PART 1 OR 2)**

There were no items of business that the Chair deemed urgent.