

SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2015 AT SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS

47. PRESENT:

Councillor	Left	Authority
D T Davies (Chair)		Caerphilly
D Ali		Cardiff
S Bradwick		Rhondda Cynon Taff
P Drake		Vale of Glamorgan
C Elsbury		Caerphilly
E Galsworthy		Merthyr Tydfil
E Hacker		Vale of Glamorgan
P Hannon		Newport
K Hyde		Cardiff
C James		Bridgend
M Javed		Cardiff
S J Jones		Rhondda Cynon Taff
R McKerlich		Cardiff
B Morgan		Rhondda Cynon Taff
G Phillips		Cardiff
S Pickering		Rhondda Cynon Taff
M Powell		Monmouthshire
P Seabourne		Torfaen
C Smith		Bridgend
V Smith		Monmouthshire

APOLOGIES:

A Jones	Torfaen
J Jones	Caerphilly
J Morgan	Blaenau Gwent
M Rahman	Newport
DCO S Chapman	Monitoring Officer

ABSENT:

OFFICERS PRESENT:- CFO H Jakeway, A/ACFO R Prendergast – Director of Technical Services, ACO P Haynes – Director of People Services, ACFO A Thomas – Director of Service Delivery, Mr C Barton – Treasurer, Mr C Powell – Deputy Monitoring Officer

48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Officers declared an interest in agenda item 6.ii.

49. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

RETURN OF COUNCILLOR CLIVE JAMES

The Chair extended a special warm welcome to Councillor James, who had returned to the Fire & Rescue Authority following a lengthy illness. Councillor James responded by thanking Members and Officers for all their kindness and consideration shown towards himself and his wife Pauline whilst recovering from illness.

Best wishes were also extended to Councillor Sage, and Councillor Alan Jones, who were currently both in hospital. The Chair assured Members that on behalf of the Fire & Rescue Authority he would write to both Councillors wishing them a speedy recovery.

NEW MEMBER

The Chair was also pleased to welcome new Member, Councillor Charles Smith, who was attending his first Fire & Rescue Authority meeting, on behalf of Bridgend Unitary Authority.

2014 DEFENCE EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME AWARDS

The Chair was pleased to report that on 30 January 2015, ACFO Andrew Thomas had received a silver award on behalf of the Service at the '2014 Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Awards' ceremony held at Cardiff City Stadium. Members congratulated Officers on their achievement, and ACFO Thomas responded by stating that he was proud to receive the award on behalf of the Service.

50. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the HR & Equalities meeting held on 13 October 2014, were received and accepted as a true record of proceedings.

The minutes of the Fire & Rescue Authority held on 15 December 2014, were received and accepted as a true record of proceedings, subject to the following amendments:-

- Councillor S Jones represented Rhondda Cynon Taff Unitary Authority, and not Caerphilly as recorded.
- Councillor J Jones represented Caerphilly Unitary Authority, and not Rhondda Cynon Taff as recorded.

51. UPDATE ON ACTIONS

The Deputy Monitoring Officer informed Members of actions undertaken since the last meeting, and provided updates on minute numbers:- 13/14-24.1, 13/14-24.2, 13/14-59, 13/14-78.12, 14/15-28.1

52. REPORTS FOR DECISIONS

52.1 REPORT ON RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT IMPROVEMENT PLAN – ‘HOW DID WE DO IN 2013/2014? AN ASSESSMENT OF OUR PERFORMANCE’, AND PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES 2015/2016

The Deputy Monitoring Officer requested Members consideration of the responses received during the consultation process.

RESOLVED THAT

- 52.1.1 Members agreed to note the responses received.
- 52.1.2 Members approved the Improvement Objectives consulted on to be published in the Improvement Plan ‘How we intend to improve in 2015/2016’ to be published on 31 March 2015.

The Principal Officers withdrew from the meeting whilst the next agenda item was being considered by Members.

52.2 PRINCIPAL OFFICERS PAY

The ACO People Services presented a report to Members explaining the circumstances and issues relating to the National Joint Council for Brigade Managers of Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services circular governing the Pay Award for 2014.

The HR & Equalities Committee were asked to consider these factors and to make a recommendation to the Fire and Rescue Authority.

Following a lengthy question and answer session on whether a decision on a differential and anomaly would be required at this stage and

whether Members would need to chose between the National Joint Council Award or to establish a Local Agreement, Members noted that this was a decision of the Fire Authority as the employing body. The ACO People Services withdrew from the meeting while Members considered the report.

RESOLVED THAT

- 52.2.1 Members agreed to acknowledge the HR & Equalities Committee's recommendations.
- 52.2.2 Members agreed to acknowledge the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendation.
- 52.2.3 Members agreed that the pay award for 2014 as determined by the National Joint Council for Brigades of Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services be approved.
- 52.2.4 Members noted that a further Pay Policy report would be presented to the Fire & Rescue Authority on 16 March 2015

All Officers returned to the meeting.

52.2 REPORT ON THE CONSULTATION FOR THE PROPOSED STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2015/2016

The Deputy Monitoring Officer informed Members of the consultation process and the proposed statutory performance indicators for Fire & Rescue Authorities in Wales.

RESOLVED THAT

Following a question and answer session, Members agreed to note the proposals within the consultation, and South Wales Fire & Rescue Service's response.

52.3 DISMISSAL APPEALS

The ACO People Services informed Members that the report sought consistency in all organisational policies and procedures by ensuring that any appeal against dismissal would be heard by a panel of three members of the Executive Leadership Team to ensure consistency of approach and decision-making for the organisation.

RESOLVED THAT

- 52.4.1 Members agreed that all dismissal appeals would be heard by a panel of three members of the Executive Leadership Team.
- 52.4.2 Members agreed that the Director of People Services and the Deputy Chief Officer be given the authority to amend the organisation's policies, procedures and Scheme of Delegations to reflect the decision above and its implications.

53. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

53.1 SUMMARY OF THE NATIONAL ISSUES COMMITTEE MEETING

The Chief Fire Officer updated Members on the outcomes of the January 2015 meeting of the Fire & Rescue Services' All Wales National Issues Committee.

RESOLVED THAT

- 53.1.1 Following discussion on the importance of collaboration, joint working, and queries on income generation, Members agreed to note the content of the National Issues Committee summary report.
- 53.1.2 Officers agreed to consider arranging a Members Conference to take place during 2015.

Members congratulated Officers on successfully receiving and being nominated for awards on behalf of the National Issues Committee.

53.2 FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION DISPUTE - UPDATE ON INDUSTRIAL ACTION

The Acting ACFO Technical Services provided Members with a verbal update on the Firefighters' Pension Dispute. He reported that the Service and the Fire Brigades Union were waiting for the result of the consultation process which had recently been carried out by the Welsh Government. Members were also made aware that the deadline for launching the new Firefighters Pension Scheme was 1 April 2015.

RESOLVED THAT

Following discussion, Members agreed to note the verbal update on the Firefighters Pension Dispute.

53.3 UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIRE COVER REVIEW

The ACFO Service Delivery informed Members that the purpose of the Fire Cover Review was to identify the optimum station locations and crewing arrangements to accurately match resources against risk. The report provided a brief update on the recommendations the Fire & Rescue Authority had agreed to implement from each of the three phases of the Fire Cover Review.

RESOLVED THAT

53.3.1 Members agreed to note the progress made to date on the implementation of the Fire Cover Review recommendations.

53.3.2 Following a request by Councillor James, Officers agreed that the Property Services Manager would provide the Member with regular updates on issues concerning Kenfig Hill Fire & Rescue Station.

53.4 CEFN FFOREST FIRE & RESCUE STATION, PWLLGLAS ROAD, BLACKWOOD

The Deputy Monitoring Officer informed Members that terms had been agreed for the sale of Cefn Fforest Fire & Rescue Station to Seren Group Limited for social housing use.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to proceed with the disposal of Cefn Fforest Fire & Rescue Station at the value reported by the District Valuer.

53.5 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented the Forward Work Programme for 2014/2015.

RESOLVED THAT

Members accepted the Forward Work Programme for 2014/2015.

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

There were no items of urgent business.