

SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16 MARCH 2015 AT SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS

55. PRESENT:

Councillor	Left	Authority
D T Davies (Chair)		Caerphilly
D Ali		Cardiff
P Drake		Vale of Glamorgan
C Elsbury		Caerphilly
E Galsworthy		Merthyr Tydfil
E Hacker		Vale of Glamorgan
K Hyde		Cardiff
C James		Bridgend
M Javed		Cardiff
A Jones		Torfaen
J Jones		Caerphilly
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
M Rahman		Newport
P Seabourne		Torfaen
C Smith		Bridgend
V Smith		Monmouthshire

APOLOGIES:

S Bradwick (Deputy Chair)		Rhondda Cynon Taff
P Hannon		Newport
J Morgan		Blaenau Gwent

ABSENT:

OFFICERS PRESENT:- CFO H Jakeway, DCO S Chapman, ACO P Haynes – Director of People Services, Mr C Barton – Treasurer, Mr G Thomas – Head of Finance & Procurement, Mr C Powell – Deputy Monitoring Officer, AM R Matheson – Head of Operational Risk Management

56. 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.iv, Localism Act 2011 – Pay Policy Statement.

57. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

BEREAVEMENT

The Chair was sad to announce the death of Councillor Jennie Morgan's husband, Geoff Morgan, and wished to express sincere condolences on behalf of Members to Councillor Morgan and her family. Members and Officers held a minute's silence in respect.

UPDATE ON COUNCILLORS BRADWICK, HANNON AND SAGE

The Chair informed Members that Councillor Bradwick was recovering at home from a recent operation, and Councillors Hannon and Sage were currently in hospital. On behalf of Members the Chair confirmed he would write to the three Councillors wishing them a speedy recovery.

WELCOME TO COUNCILLORS JAMES AND ALAN JONES

The Chair also extended a warm welcome to Councillors James and Alan Jones who had returned to the Fire & Rescue Authority following a period of ill health.

COUNCILLOR JANET JONES

The Chair was disappointed to report that Councillor Janet Jones would be unable to continue as a Member of the Fire & Rescue Authority as from May 2015. The Chair wished Councillor Jones all the very best in the future and thanked her for her support throughout the year. Councillor Jones responded by thanking Members and Officers for their kindness and friendship throughout her time on the Fire & Rescue Authority.

DEPUTY MAYOR OF CARDIFF CITY COUNCIL

On behalf of Members, the Chair congratulated Councillor Ali on recently being nominated as the Deputy Mayor of Cardiff City Council.

CHARITY CYCLE RIDE

The Chair was pleased to inform Members that the Chief Fire Officer would be taking part in a Charity Cycle Ride to raise money for the Firefighters Charity. In his own time the Chief Fire Officer and the team would cycle to each community Fire & Rescue Station across the South Wales area, and would cover 300 miles over 4 days. The event would start from Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters on 17 May and finish on 20 May 2015. The Chair urged Members to support the event by completing the sponsorship form which would be circulated at the end of the meeting.

NATIONAL SPRINKLER WEEK

The Chair informed Members that due to National Sprinkler Week across the UK, a short demonstration would take place following the meeting. The Members noted that thanks to Welsh Government legislation that from 30 April 2014, all new and converted residential care homes, certain hostels, B&Bs, would be required to install fire sprinklers. From 1 January 2016 all new and converted residential properties, including houses and flats, would also be protected by sprinkler systems. The Chair also reported that the Chief Fire Officer would carry out further discussions with Assembly Members to pursue the mandatory installation of sprinklers in schools.

58. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

- Finance, Audit & Performance Management meeting held on 24 November 2014
- Fire & Rescue Authority meeting held on 9 February 2015

59. UPDATE ON ACTIONS

The Deputy Chief Officer informed Members of actions undertaken since the last meeting, and provided updates on minute number:- 13/14 78.12.

60. REPORTS FOR DECISION

60.1 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2015/2016

The Treasurer provided Members with the Treasury Management Strategy, policies and indicators for approval as required by statute.

RESOLVED THAT

- 60.1.1 Members approved the proposed Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy, Annual Investment Strategy, Capital and Prudential Indicators for 2015/2016, as required by Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003.
- 60.1.2 Members also gave approval that the Treasurer updates the Strategy in line with the economic forecasts as necessary throughout the year.
- 60.1.3 Following a query on reserves, Members noted that due to a recommendation by Auditors, a formal policy on reserves would be presented to the Fire & Rescue Authority in due course.

60.2 PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TARGET SETTING 2015/2016

The Chief Fire Officer provided Members with the proposed Performance Indicator Targets for 2015/2016.

RESOLVED THAT

- 60.2.1 Following a question and answer session, Members agreed to endorse the Performance Indicator Targets proposed for 2015/2016.
- 60.2.2 Members approved the publication of the Performance Indicator Targets for 2015/2016 on the South Wales Fire & Rescue Service website.

60.3 PUBLICATION OF STAGE 1 OF THE ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2015/2016

The Deputy Chief Officer provided Members with a report in order to publish Stage 1 of the Service's Annual Improvement Plan in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

RESOLVED THAT

- 60.3.1 Following a question and answer session on various statistics within the report, Members agreed to note the contents of the report and approved the general content of the Improvement Plan for 2015/2016.
- 60.3.2 Members approved the publication of the Improvement Plan 2015/2016 on the South Wales Fire & Rescue Service website by 31 March 2015, and subsequent publications of the document.
- 60.3.3 Following a request by Members, Officers agreed to circulate a copy of the School Visit Plan for each Borough to Members.
- 60.3.4 Following discussion on the availability of 'Crucial Crew', Officers agreed to investigate the issue further and confirm Welsh Government funding.

60.4 LOCALISM ACT 2011 – PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2015/2016

The ACO People Services informed Members that the Localism Act which came into being in November 2011 required South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority to publish a Pay Policy Statement by 31 March of each financial year that provided information for the following financial year.

Officers withdrew from the meeting whilst Members considered the recommendation.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to endorse South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority's Pay Policy Statement for re-publication on 31 March 2015.

Officers returned to the meeting.

60.5 LOCAL PENSION BOARD – RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

The Deputy Chief Officer informed Members that individual Fire & Rescue Authorities must consider and reach a determination on how they intend to advance the programme of governance in respect of the three Firefighters' Pension Schemes.

Consideration would need to be given to the discharge of responsibilities in relation to the creation of a Local Pension Board and scheme management.

Consideration would also need to be given to issues surrounding Member roles and responsibilities and amendment to relevant documents to reflect Members decisions.

RESOLVED THAT

- 60.5.1 Members agreed to utilise a Committee, to be known as 'the Local Pensions Board' to carry out and discharge its responsibilities to manage or administer the Firefighters' Pension Schemes.
- 60.5.2 Members agreed that the Local Pensions Board be responsible for ensuring good governance and compliance with requirements imposed by the Pensions Regulator.
- 60.5.3 Members approved the terms of reference for the Local Pensions Board detailed at Appendix 2 attached to the report.
- 60.5.4 Members agreed that the Chair of the Local Pensions Board be the Deputy Chair of the Fire & Rescue Authority.
- 60.5.5 Members agreed that the Deputy Chief Officer be given delegated authority to amend the necessary documents and Member role descriptions to reflect the changes brought about by the creation of the Local Pension Board.
- 60.5.6 Members agreed that the Authority makes its first appointments to the Local Pensions Board at its Annual General Meeting.
- 60.5.7 Members agreed to undertake mandatory training prior to sitting on the Local Pensions Board.

61. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

61.1 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE FINANCE, AUDIT & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND ITS WORKING GROUP DURING 2014/2015

In the absence of the Chair of the Finance, Audit & Performance Management Committee, the Deputy Chief Officer presented a report

on the annual report on the work of the Finance, Audit and Performance Management Committee, and its Working Group, for the Municipal Year 2014/2015.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to note the work undertaken by the Finance, Audit and Performance Management Committee and its Working Group during the Municipal Year.

On behalf of Members, the Chair wished to record thanks and appreciation to Members and Officers of the Finance, Audit & Performance Management Committee, and its Working Group, for all their hard work and commitment throughout the Municipal Year.

61.2 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WORK OF THE HR & EQUALITIES COMMITTEE

The Chair of the HR & Equalities Committee informed Members of the work undertaken by the HR & Equalities Committee during the Municipal Year 2014/2015.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to note the work of the HR & Equalities Committee in the 2014/2015 Municipal Year.

On behalf of Members, the Chair thanked Members and Officers of the HR & Equalities Committee for their hard work and dedication throughout the Municipal Year.

61.3 FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION DISPUTE – UPDATE ON INDUSTRIAL ACTION

The Chief Fire Officer provided Members with a verbal update on the recent Industrial Action, and reported that at the present time there was no formal resolution on the dispute being resolved in Wales

RESOLVED THAT

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

61.4 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Deputy Chief Officer presented the Forward Work Programme for 2014/2015, and confirmed that the Programme was now complete.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to note that the Forward Work Programme for 2014/2015 was now complete.

62. RESOLUTIONS TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC BY VIRTUE OF SECTION 100A AND PARAGRAPHS 14 & 16 OF PART 4 OF SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED)

A resolution to exclude the press and public by virtue of Section 100A and paragraphs 14 & 16 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) was passed.

62.1 UPDATE ON THE ABERBARGOED PROJECT

The Deputy Chief Officer provided Members with an update on the Aberbargoed project.

RESOLVED THAT

62.1.1 Members agreed to note the content of the report regarding the legal advice received.

62.1.2 Members authorised the increase in additional expenditure detailed in paragraph 2.2 of the report to meet the final cost of the project.

63. TO CONSIDER ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DEEMS URGENT (PART 1 or 2)

There were no items of urgent business.

RE-DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL STONE AT BLAINA

The Chief Fire Officer took the opportunity to inform Members that due to the closure of Blaina Fire Station on 31 March 2015, the memorial stone commemorating the tragic deaths of Firefighters Kevin Lane and Stephen Griffin, would be re-dedicated at St Peter's Church, Blaina, on Sunday, 22 March, 2015. Along with the family members, the Chief Fire Officer and Chair would attend the small service at the local church.

The Chair wished to record his thanks and appreciation to all Officers involved in the preparation and planning of the service, and for maintaining contact with the families and members of the community.

Members also wished to record their thanks to the Chief Fire Officer, and congratulated him for helping the families throughout the whole difficult process.

The Chair thanked Members and Officers for all their support and commitment throughout the 2014/2015 Municipal Year.