

**AWDURDOD TÂN AC ACHUB CANOLBARTH A GORLLEWIN
CYMRU**



MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

**NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY THE FIRE AUTHORITY AT ITS
NEXT MEETING ON 7 FEBRUARY 2011**

**COFNODION
CYFARFOD YR AWDURDOD TAN**

Ganolfan Gynadledda,
Pencadlys Y Gwasanaeth Tân Ac Achub, Caerfyddin
20 RHAGFYR 2010

**MINUTES
OF THE FIRE AUTHORITY MEETING**

The Conference Centre,
Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Carmarthen
20 DECEMBER 2010

11.00 – 12.05

44 % PRESENOLDEB/ATTENDANCE

Presennol yn y Cyfarfod/Present at Meeting:

GADEIRYDD/ CHAIRMAN:
IS-GADEIRYDD/VICE CHAIRMAN:

T E Evans
C Philpott

AELODAU/MEMBERS:

Cyng/Cllrs: R Llewellyn, Dyfrig Thomas,
N Holley, S Lloyd-Janes, A Woolcock,
P James, M Pepper J J J Davies, T Tudor

YMDDIHEURIADAU/APOLOGIES:

Cyng/Cllrs: A Davies, J Dudley J Dinham,
D Davies, M Williams J Holmes,
F Torrens, D Howells, J Newbury,
P Llewellyn, P Smith, G Thomas,
Des Thomas, H Morris

YN BRESENNOL /IN ATTENDANCE:

R Smith, P Coleman, P Bates, L Aitken, D
Daycock, J Maunder, S Flather, K Jones,
J Cameron, D Masson, G Davies,
C Davies

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Davies, A Davies, J Dinham, J Dudley, J Holmes, D Howells, H Morris, J Newbury, P Llewellyn, P Smith, G Thomas, Des Thomas, F Torrens and M Williams

2 DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF ANY PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

All Members present declared that they had a personal interest in any matters affecting or relating to their own Constituent Authority

3 TO CONFIRM AS A TRUE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE FIRE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 25th OCTOBER 2010

The minutes of the Fire Authority meeting held on 25th October 2010 were confirmed and approved as a true record.

4 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Item 5 – To receive a report on the Domestic Fire Safety (Wales) Measure and Sprinkler Update

Assistant Chief Fire Officer Paul Bates reported that since the last Fire Authority meeting, the Stage one legislation had now been completed and that the Legislative Competence Order requiring the installation of Automatic Fire Suppression Systems would progress to the next stage. The technical details would be considered on 20th January 2011 with a full plenary session expected in early March.

5 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 6TH DECEMBER 2010

The minutes of the Resources Committee held on 6th December 2010 were received and approved as a true record of the proceedings

6 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEMBER DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP HELD ON 22ND NOVEMBER 2010

The minutes of the Member Development Working Group held on 22nd November 2010 were received and approved as a true record of the proceedings

7 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 29TH NOVEMBER 2010

The minutes of the Standards Committee held on 29th November 2010 were received and approved as a true record of proceedings

8 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE BUDGET REQUIREMENT FOR 2011/12

The Chief Fire Officer reported that the Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) continued to make good progress against its stated objectives, delivering a high performing service with efficiency and effectiveness and providing the citizens of Mid and West Wales with demonstrable value for money. Members were aware that significant progress had been made in implementing key actions in 2010/2011 with improvements throughout the year being reported periodically to the Fire Authority and relevant committees.

The main pressure the Authority would be facing in delivering services over the next few years, particularly through the period of the Comprehensive Spending Review, would be to continue to strive to improve services against a background of reducing budgets and it was clear that there would be a need for the Authority to give detailed consideration to all areas of spend with a view to making the necessary efficiency savings whilst continuing to deliver an excellent service to the communities of Mid and West Wales.

The Director of Finance and Resources provided Members with an overview of the financial background leading up to the formulation of the proposed budget for 2011/12, reporting that the Treasury's budget announcement in June 2010 had warned of a very difficult period ahead in terms of cutbacks in Public Expenditure in response to the recession, which was the worst in living memory. However, in reality the reductions from Local Government and Fire and Rescue Authorities were less than had been expected and due largely to the foresight of the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service in pre-empting the situation through the work of the Service Review Programme team, the organisation had been in a position of strength having identified potential efficiency options for consideration in order to achieve a fair and reasonable budget increase/decrease.

It was noted that the Chief Fire Officer and Treasurer had met with each Constituent Authority Chief Executive and Treasurer who had in general expressed a desire that the Fire Authority's budget change reflected the Constituent Authorities' settlements.

Members were reminded that in agreement with the Constituent Authority Treasurers, the cash call on the revenue account of Constituent Authorities in 2010/11 was significantly reduced by a contribution (£580k) from the Authority's Reserves. This was a reduction to the call on the reserve in the previous year and it was the intention to gradually reduce the call on this reserve over the next few years.

Fire Authority were aware that the Budget Requirement for 2011/12 had been considered and debated in detail by the Resources Committee on 6th December 2010 where it had been unanimously approved by Members.

RESOLUTION

Following a recorded vote whereby Councillors JJJ Davies, T E Evans, N Holley, R Llewellyn, S Lloyd-Janes, M Pepper, C Philpott, Dyfrig Thomas, T Tudor and A Woolcock voted for the motion and Councillor P James voted against the motion:

It was AGREED:

- 1) That for 2011/12, the net budget at £43,687,259 (-1.6%) be approved**
- 2) That the budget of £43,687,259 for 2011/12 be part funded by £480k from reserves**
- 3) That the Constituent Authorities be requested for the balance of £43,207,259 as their contribution for the 2011/12 year.(Decrease of -1.4% on their revenue account)**
- 4) That the Capital Programme be approved, leading to the capital financing charges shown as additional**
- 5) That Members approve the vehicle replacement programme**
- 6) That whilst it had been assumed that the majority of vehicles would be leased in the budget build up, the Director of Resources be authorised to decide on the appropriate method of financing of vehicles (be it leasing or otherwise) at the time of procurement.**

9 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER A REPORT ON A PROPOSED CHANGE IN THE BASIS FOR THE CALCULATION OF BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CONSTITUENT AUTHORITIES, COMMENCING WITH THE 2011/12 FINANCIAL YEAR.

The Director of Finance and Resources reported that the budget of the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority was funded each year by its Constituent Local Authorities, as per the Mid and West Wales Fire Services (Combination Order) 1995 as amended. This Combination Order required each Constituent Authority to pay to the Fire and Rescue Authority a contribution equal to its appropriate proportion of the net expenses of the Authority in respect of each financial year. The 'appropriate proportion' meant that in the absence of agreement between the Constituent Authorities, an amount determined by reference to the proportion which the population of the area of each Constituent Authority bore to the total population of the combined area, the population in any area being the number of persons usually resident in that area as estimated by the Registrar General. The figure was indicated in the latest data available from him on 30th June in the year proceeding the relevant financial year.

It was proposed to change the basis of calculation of the Constituent Authorities' contributions to be consistent with the population definition used for the Local Government Settlement. This would have an impact on Constituent Authorities as the base year moved on 3 years instead of 1 year. However this change would reflect the way resources were allocated to Constituent Authorities in regards to the population indicator from the Welsh Assembly Government.

RESOLUTION

It was AGREED:

- 1) That each financial year, commencing with the 2011/12 financial year, the share of the Constituent Authorities' contributions to the Fire and Rescue Authority's budget would be based on the definition of population as utilised for the distribution of the Local Government Settlement from the Welsh Assembly Government.**
- 2) That this proposal to be notified to the Constituent Authorities for comment, for conclusion before the Fire Authority set its budget in February 2011.**

10 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE SCHEME OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

The Clerk reported that the Independent Remuneration Panel had published its Report on Members Allowances in January 2010.

It was noted that although the Panel's remit did not extend to Fire & Rescue Authorities and National Park Authorities, those Authorities, when amending their schemes of allowances, were required by the Regulations to have regard to the matters prescribed by the Panel in respect of the types of and maximum levels of allowances paid by their constituent authorities. Such changes in relation to allowances could only be made to the Authority's Scheme once the respective constituent authorities had considered the level of increase (if any) to be applied to their Schemes.

It was recommended that any changes to the allowances would be backdated where appropriate

RESOLUTION

Following full consideration of the Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members Allowances it was AGREED that:

- 1. The Basic Allowance for 2010/11 to be retained at £1,129**
- 2. The Special Responsibility Allowances for 2010/11 (i.e. for the Chair & Vice Chair of the Authority) to be retained at £9,603 and £7,380.**
- 3. Care Allowances for the Chair, Vice Chair and other Members to be retained at £1,531, £1,197 and £417 respectively per annum.**
- 4. The Travel allowances to remain as at present**
- 5. Individual subsistence allowances for 2010/11 to remain at current levels with a ceiling of £28 per day and that overnight allowances be effective from the day following the Authority meeting.**
- 6. Overnight allowances to be in accordance with the recommendations of the Panel of £150 for London, £120 for Cardiff and £95 for all other cases**
- 7. A Co-optees Allowance be payable to the Chair and Independent Members of Standards Committee of £557.50 and £300 respectively**
- 8. That the Allowances would be retrospective to the date of the Annual**

st **December 2010.**

11 TO RECEIVE THE SERVICE DELIVERY REPORT

The Service Delivery Report was received and noted for information