

**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**

COFNODION

CYFARFOD YR AWDURDOD TAN

**Ystafell Caer,
Pencadlys Y Gwasanaeth Tân Ac Achub, Caerfyddin
14 RHAGFYR 2015**

MINUTES

OF THE FIRE AUTHORITY MEETING

**The Caer Suite,
Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Carmarthen
14 DECEMBER 2015**

11.10 – 15.20

79% PRESENOLDEB/ATTENDANCE

Presennol yn y Cyfarfod/Present at Meeting:

GADEIRYDD/ CHAIR: Councillor W E Evans
IS-GADEIRYDD/ DEPUTY CHAIR: Councillor J Dudley

AELODAU/MEMBERS: Cyng/Cllrs: J Bayliss (departed meeting at 11:30), K Curry, J Curtice, L Frayling, J Hale, J Warman (departed meeting at 12:45) C Evans (departed at 13:40) T Hennegan (departed meeting at 12:45) P James (departed at 14:40) R Lewis (departed at 13:40), S Paddison, K Pearson, R Rees-Evans (departed at 13:40) E G Thomas (departed at 15:05) P Pritchard (departed at 13:40) G Thomas, G Walker (departed at 15:05) J Warman, DE Williams, T Wilcox (departed meeting at 14:35)

YMDDIHEURIADAU/APOLOGIES: Cyng/Cllrs: J Bayliss, J Williams, J Curtice, G Tanner, G Jones.

YN BRESENNOL /IN ATTENDANCE: C Davies, M Crennell, D Daycock, R Quin, L Aitken, C Margetts, K Jones, R Thomas, I Cray, C Jackson, S Flather, S Barry (Item 8), H Jones (Item 9)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Bayliss, J Williams, J Curtice, G Jones and G Tanner.

2. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF ANY PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

All Members present declared that they had a personal interest in matters relating to, or likely to affect their own Constituent Authority.

All Members declared a personal interest for item 7, and Councillors J Dudley, R Rees-Evans, J Warman and S Paddison declared a prejudicial interest in item 7.

All Officers affected by the report declared that they had an interest in relation to item 15 of the agenda, namely the Chief Officers' Triennial Pay Review.

Councillor K Pearson declared a personal interest regarding item 17 of the agenda, to receive a report on Rescue 365's first year of progress. Councillor G Walker declared personal interest due to being a former FBU member and Councillor T Hennegan also declared a personal interest regarding the Joint Resilience Group.

Councillor J A Hale declared a personal interest by way of membership of the UNISON Trade Union and notified the meeting that he had been granted a dispensation from the Standards Committee.

3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS / PERSONAL MATTERS

The Chair was delighted to welcome Councillor Roy Llewellyn back to the Fire Authority following a period of ill health. Councillor Llewellyn thanked Members for the good wishes he had received during his absence, and reported that he was feeling much better.

The Chair extended warm wishes to Councillor Jan Williams following a recent period of ill health, to which Councillor Evans informed Members that Councillor Williams was feeling better and was on the mend. The Chair also extended warm wishes to Councillor J Curtice following her recent operation.

The Chair congratulated Mrs Owens on the birth of her baby daughter, Ila Mae on 30 October 2015, weighing 7lbs 5oz.

A warm welcome was extended to Councillor Colin Evans of Carmarthen Council, who had replaced Councillor Calum Higgins on the Fire Authority.

A warm welcome was extended to Mr Steve Barry of the Wales Audit Office who was in attendance to present item 08 of the agenda, namely the Wales Audit Office Annual Improvement Report. A warm welcome was also extended to the Chair of the Standards Committee Mr Hywel Jones who was in attendance to present item 09 of the

agenda, namely the Standards Committee Annual Report.

The Chair also revealed to Members that he would be participating in the Boxing Day Swim in Saundersfoot, dressed as a Welsh Dragon in order to raise funds for the Firefighters Charity.

The Clerk/Monitoring Officer informed Members that an amendment had been provided for item 15 on the agenda, namely the report on the Chief Officers' Triennial Pay Review.

4. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN AS A TRUE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE FIRE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2015

The minutes of the Fire Authority meeting held on 21 September 2015 were approved as a true record of proceedings.

Matters Arising – Councillor G Walker raised a query concerning page 9, paragraph 6 regarding vehicle response times for the Glynneath area within Neath Port Talbot County Command. The Chief Fire Officer reported that the Service Review Team would be looking at the full Fire Service area, the outcome of which will be provided to Members once completed. It was confirmed that a meeting was to take place between Councillor G Walker and the Executive Support Officer to discuss this matter in further detail. The Chief Fire Officer stated to Members that should it be deemed necessary, an update paper would be presented to Members following the outcome of the meeting.

The Corporate Head of Operational Support and Improvement informed Members, following a query raised by Councillor G Walker regarding the pension entitlement of Self Rostered Crewing Staff that the matter was being dealt with via an Employment Tribunal and a further update would be provided to Members in due course.

A request was received from Councillor Pearson to re-order agenda items, the Clerk/Monitoring Officer informed Members that this matter could be determined by Members if they wished today.

5. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON THE JOINT PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE

The Corporate Head of Response provided Members with a verbal update on the Joint Public Service Centre (JPSC). Members were presented with an overview of the project report and detailed consideration was given to the seven key task areas whereby the following areas of interest were noted:

It was reported to Members that good progress had been made on Key Task Area 1 regarding the building accommodation and that the building completion date remained on target for March 2016. The Fire Authority was informed that Key Task Area 2 had been closed and moved to Key Task Area 7 which was the Implementation and Transition stage. The Corporate Head of Response advised Members that within Key Task Area 3, the Command and Control System project's completion date had been

moved from the middle of May to June as some delays had been incurred during the appointment of a new Project Manager.

Fire Authority Members received an update on Information Communications Technology and telephony equipment for the physical hardware and communications hardware, which reassured Members that all operatives had the necessary required equipment in order to perform their roles. The Corporate Head of Response informed Members that as part of the business continuity for the project, work had been on-going for a replicated control room “dark site” to be set up which would be utilised in the event of a major system failure or evacuation, allowing the continuation of services to the general public.

The Corporate Head of Response reported that Key Task Area 6 regarding Operational Assurance, was in relation to harmonising the working environment between South Wales Fire and Rescue Service and Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service. Members were informed that Key Task Area 7 was the Transition and Implementation stage, which considered working hours and employee shift patterns. Fire Authority Members were advised that all employees are fully updated on the progress of the project and a further staff engagement day had been arranged for 19 January 2016, where the Chief Fire Officer would be providing a further update and would also allow an opportunity for employees to ask any questions.

In response to a query raised by Councillor P James, it was confirmed by the Corporate Head of Response that the 6 week delay on the Command and Control System had been incurred due to the development of the system, which was a time consuming exercise. It was also reported to Members that there would be no financial impact on the Fire Authority.

Councillor T Hennegan enquired whether or not a penalty clause had been incorporated within the Joint Public Service Centre contract, to which it was confirmed that all liquidated damages had been incorporated within the contract.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that the update on the Joint Public Service Centre be noted.

6. TO RECEIVE THE JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND THE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES ON THE BUDGET REQUIREMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2016/17

The Chief Fire Officer opened the report on the budget requirement for the financial year 2016/17 and confirmed that Members would be familiar with the information contained within the report as it had been discussed previously at several corporate planning days. It was reported to Members that these Corporate Planning days had been successful and that the proposed budget predicated an average Local Government Settlement of a 4% reduction. It was confirmed that efficiencies had been

made without making any reduction in Service Delivery and that £7.7 million pounds had been saved over the last 10 year period, which equates to 17% of the Service's overall budget. As a result of these savings, station based staff had been reduced by 27% and middle manager posts reduced by 34%.

Members were advised that all budget figures had been provided to the Local Constituent Authorities, with positive feedback received based on a 0.62% increase to the budget. It was reported that the current Fire and Rescue Service provision to the local communities only costs the members of the community £49.00 per person per year, which equates to approximately £4.00 per month. The Chief Fire Officer stressed that the Service was not a demand led organisation, but a risk management organisation.

The Chief Fire Officer also reported to Members that a letter had recently been received from the Minister which confirmed that Welsh Government would continue to support the current Airwave Radio grant in 2016/17, but were uncertain about support beyond next year. It was also reported to Members that Welsh Government may not be providing financial support for the new Emergency Services Network (ESN) scheme which will be replacing the Airwave Radio and that the New Dimensions and Community Safety grant would also be cut by a further 10%.

Having cognisance of the above budget reductions and in order to ensure that the current Service provision will be maintained, the Chief Fire Officer suggested to Members a 0.99% increase in the net budget, which equated to an additional £162,000 on the overall budget, over that proposed by Resource Management Committee.

The Director of Resources highlighted to Members that although the initial budget discussions were predicated on an average Local Government Settlement reduction of 4%, the average reduction from the Provision Settlement across Wales was only 1.4%, and for the Constituent Authorities of Mid and West Wales FRA was near 2%. This meant that together with the Council Tax element, it was likely that many Local Authorities would be able to set a budget that was increased on last year.

Referring to Appendix C, the Director of Resources reported to Members that there was an aim to produce further savings regarding the replacement of shift systems, and if that was the case during the year, the training and Corporate Department savings needs would be re-examined. It was also stated there would be an additional pressure impacting upon this Authority for Pension contributions, which was not being incurred by the Local Authorities. The Director of Resources therefore, based on this context, reiterated the proposed increase to the overall budget falling on the Constituent Authorities of 0.99%.

It was confirmed to Members that the Resource Management Committee had proposed recommending the use of £250,000 from Service Reserves. The Director of Resources reported that some reserves would be depleted immediately. It was reported to Members by the Director of Resources that the current cost of the airwave system to this Authority was £900,000, whilst the grant was only £600k. There could be severe budget implications in the future should the full grant funding of £600,000

not be received from Welsh Government. The Director of Resources stated to Members that a letter would be sent to the Minister on behalf of the Chair of the Fire Authority laying out the concerns of the Fire Authority, as there may also be some Capital costs required during the transitional years for the new ESMCP project, and for ongoing costs, depending on their extent.

In response to a query raised by the Chair, the Director of Resources confirmed that the letter from the Minister had only been received 6 days prior to the Fire Authority Meeting.

The Director of Resources advised Members that the Service would be writing to Local Constituent Authorities regarding the budget timetable, with the final budget to be set by 15 February 2016. The Director of Resources provided a brief synopsis of each appendix contained within the report, and confirmed that if Members were minded to encompass the above changes, that an amount of £44,204,049 would be required from the Constituent Authorities and £250,000 would be utilised from reserves. It was therefore recommended for Fire Authority Members to approve a budget for the 2016/17 financial year of £44,454,049.

Councillor J Warman expressed his disappointment with the letter received from the Minister and commented on the good work already undertaken by the Service in relation to efficiency savings. Councillor Warman also noted his confidence with justifying the Fire Authority budget to the Local Authorities and requested that the Chair write a letter expressing his disappointment to the Minister. The Chair confirmed to Members that he would send a letter to the Minister expressing his disappointment and raising the concerns of the Fire Authority.

Councillor P James endorsed the comments made by Councillor J Warman and echoed that he was also unhappy with the letter received from the Minister, as a standstill budget had been expected. Councillor James queried whether or not the new Airwave scheme was funded by Central Government and whether the Minister was willing to make decisions in relation to its funding. Councillor James also expressed his disappointment with the budget cuts to the Community Safety sector as he believed the education provided by the Service was vital to the reduction in house fire figures, and that it was imperative for the education to continue in order to see a further reduction in these figures. Councillor James raised his dissatisfaction at the budget reductions received by Powys, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion Local Authorities and stated that he would be reporting his comments to the Treasurer.

The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that responsibility for National Resilience is devolved to Welsh Government and that the Minister can make decisions regarding its funding as he felt necessary. The Chief Fire Officer also confirmed to Members that there was discussion around flooding incidents becoming a statutory duty and discussions would be commencing with the Minister within the next few months regarding requirements for Fire Service attendance.

Councillor T Hennegan stated that if there was a requirement for further funds for the Fire Authority then Members would need to speak to their Local Authorities on behalf of the Fire Authority. Councillor E Williams informed Members that as the Chair of the Resource Management Committee, he felt the efficiency savings were ambitious, and that the Service should not be reliant on using funds from the Fire Service Reserves. Councillor Williams also stated that he feared that the Local Authorities may also see a reduction in grants provided by Welsh Government.

Councillor G Thomas informed Members that she felt Powys Local Authority had also not received a good settlement and expressed her disappointment at the lateness of the letter received from the Minister. Councillor Thomas commented on the importance of the Community Safety grant which was of particular relevance following the large number of fire calls received by the Service for grass fires, and the requirement to provide education in order to continue raising awareness regarding the dangers of grass fires. Councillor Thomas also remarked on the resilience provided to South Wales Fire and Rescue Service by Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service during the period of industrial action and stated that as a Fire Authority it is important to ensure local communities remain safe. The Chair thanked Councillor Thomas for her comments.

Councillor K Pearson expressed her dismay at the lateness of the letter received by the Minister, which she felt had made it impossible to plan the budget for the financial year. Councillor Pearson believed that Welsh Government has a high expectation of the Fire Authority to continue providing high levels of education, sustainability, supporting communities as well as firefighting, with budget reductions.

The Deputy Chair of the Fire Authority agreed with the comments raised by Members and expressed her disappointment that the Minister, Leighton Andrews, had not discussed these matters with the Chief Fire Officer at their meeting and felt that the lateness of the letter was unsatisfactory.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that:

- 1) That for 2016/17, the net budget at £44,454,049 is approved
- 2) That the budget of £44,454,049 for 2016/17 be part funded by £250,000 from reserves
- 3) That the Constituent Authorities be requested for the balance of £44,204,049 as their contribution for the 2016/17 financial year (0.99% cash increase).
- 4) The Capital Programme outlined in Appendix B of the report be approved, leading to the capital financing charges shown as additional in Appendix A;
- 5) The efficiencies laid out in Appendix C be approved;

6) The vehicle replacement programme attached at Appendix D is approved.

7. TO RECEIVE THE DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES 2016/17

Councillors S Paddison, R Rees-Evans, E Thomas and J Dudley retired from the meeting having previously declared a prejudicial interest regarding this agenda item.

The Clerk / Monitoring Officer presented Members with the draft annual report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) which set out proposals for the financial year 2016/17 and sought Members' views upon changes they would wish to make to the Members' Payment Scheme 2016/17 as a consequence.

Members were informed that the consultation period to provide any representations or comments on the draft report had closed on 30 November 2015 but that Resource Management Committee had given consideration to the report at its meeting on 16 November 2015 and made recommendations for no change to salaries and allowances to be granted.

Councillor Williams stated that he had been advised to vote to not award senior salaries, to which the Clerk/Monitoring Officer clarified that this should not be the case, and that he was not aware of any such advice being given. In this regard Councillor Williams advised that he did wish for senior salaries to be paid as they had been independently set by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

A discussion ensued amongst Members regarding the payment arrangements for the Deputy Chair and Chairs of the Committees within North Wales Fire and Rescue Service and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, where it was confirmed by Councillor K Pearson that she believed they were paid. Councillor James enquired if this additional amount had been budgeted for as it was a significant amount more money.

Councillor R Llewellyn outlined the significant additional work and responsibility attached to the role of Deputy Chair and moved that he felt that an allowance should be paid to only the Deputy Chair to reflect this additional work and responsibility. This was echoed by a number of Fire Authority Members and seconded by Councillor Lewis. The Clerk/Monitoring Officer informed Members that a vote would need to be taken by Members on the amendment proposed by Councillor Llewellyn. Councillor James voiced his dismay with the proposed amendment to pay a senior salary to the Deputy Chair and Chairs of Committees as this had not previously been paid.

The Clerk/Monitoring Officer clarified to Members that there had been a motion for senior salary payments not to be paid to the Deputy Chair and Committee Chairs, to which Councillor Llewellyn had moved an amendment that a senior salary be paid solely to the Deputy Chair based upon the significant additional work and responsibility aligned with the role, but for no senior salaries to be paid to Committee Chairs.

Members voted on the amendment, by a show of hands 6 Members present voted in favour of the amendment, to pay a senior salary to the Deputy Chair, and 10 Members present voted against paying a senior salary to the Deputy Chair, there were no abstentions. The amendment accordingly failed. The Clerk/Monitoring Officer confirmed that the original motion that no senior salaries were therefore to be paid to the Deputy Chair and Committee Chairs had to be voted upon.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that

- 1. The Fire Authority noted the draft annual report and the determinations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales for Welsh Fire & Rescue Authorities for 2016/2017.**
- 2. The Fire Authority does not approve a senior salary payment for the Deputy Chair of the Fire Authority or its Committee Chairs for the 2016/17 municipal year.**

Councillors S Paddison, R Rees-Evans, E Thomas and J Dudley returned to the meeting.

Break – Back in session 12:50pm.

8. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE WALES AUDIT OFFICE ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2014/15

Mr Steve Barry of the Wales Audit Office presented the report to Members and confirmed that a final edition of the document had been circulated to Members which had now been published to the Wales Audit Office website. It was reported to Members that the draft edition had been presented to the Performance Audit and Scrutiny Committee meeting which had taken place on Monday 27 July 2015.

Mr Barry presented Members with an outline of the report, confirming that overall the report was positive, with some proposals for improvement recommended to the development of current arrangements.

Councillor G Thomas stated that there may be limited capacity around charging for the services provided by the Fire and Rescue Services as they were statutory requirements. The Director of Resources confirmed that discussions had taken place within the Service Leadership Team meetings around adopting alternative arrangements with the Service's trading arm.

In response to a query raised by Councillor K Pearson, Mr Barry confirmed that work had previously been looked at regarding the introduction of the 3 Watch System and the project management approach. Mr Barry stated that there was a lack of formal reporting for that particular project, however reassurances had been provided by Fire Service Officers, that as it was an operational matter appropriately delegated to the

Chief Fire Officer, there was no formal requirement to seek approval from the Authority or Committees. Councillor S Paddison informed Members that this matter had also been raised at scrutiny committee meetings.

Councillor G Thomas enquired when the new Welsh Language regulations would be in place following improvements made by the Welsh Language Commissioner. The Head of Corporate Communications and Democratic Services confirmed that the Fire Service would receive the new Welsh Language standards in the New Year and that dialogue had been undertaken with the Welsh Language Commissioner in this regard.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that Members note the content of the report.

9. TO RECEIVE THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

The Chair of the Standards Committee, Mr Hywel Wyn Jones presented the report and explained that the remit of the Committee was to oversee, maintain and strengthen high standards of conduct in public office; and as part of its governance arrangements had produced an annual report setting out the work it had carried out in the year.

Members were informed that the Standards Committee comprised of four independent Members and three Authority Members. Mr Wyn Jones stated that it was pleasing to note that no complaints had been made against Members in respect of their role as members of the Fire and Rescue Authority. Accordingly, no matters had been referred to the Committee for investigation or decision. Mr Wyn Jones reassured Members that the all requests of dispensation by Fire Authority Members were considered sensitively.

The Chair of the Standards Committee explained to Members that the Standards Committee, as part of its terms of reference, has responsibility to oversee matters relating to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, and it was reported that a number of cases had been investigated by the Ombudsman, Mr Nick Bennett.

Mr Wyn Jones reported that the Standards Committee members were also kept abreast of good practice arising throughout Wales in the important areas of standards and probity via attendance at the Annual Wales Standards Committee Conference.

The Chair thanked the Chair of the Standards Committee for the report and the work of the Standards Committee, which was echoed by Councillor P James. Councillor C Evans declared a personal interest, as he was a member of the Adjudication Panel for Wales, a post he confirmed he would be resigning from at the end of the year having been a Member for 13 years.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that

The work of the Standards Committee is noted.

A resolution was moved and seconded by Members to formally move agenda item 15, to consider a report on the Chief Officers' Triennial Pay Review, to agenda item 10. All Members were in favor of this motion.

A discussion ensued around the length of the agenda, and a proposal was made for Fire Authority Meetings to commence at 10:00 hours. It was agreed by Members that consideration be given to starting the Fire Authority Meeting scheduled to take place in February 2016 at this time. The Clerk/Monitoring Officer explained to Members that any changes to the starting time of meetings could only proceed if the matter was on the agenda, however, a one off change could be accommodated. Any formal changes to the start time of meetings would need to be first considered by the Democratic Services Forum and if approved, set out in a report seeking an amendment to the Constitution.

The Chair stated the importance for all Members to make themselves available all day for Fire Authority/Committee Meetings. Councillor G Thomas supported the Chairs comment.

10.
(Formerly
item
14)

TO RESOLVE THAT PURSUANT TO SECTION 100A (4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, THAT THE PRESS AND PUBLIC BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING FOR THE REASON, THAT IF THEY WERE PRESENT, IT IS LIKELY THAT THERE WOULD BE DISCLOSURE TO THEM OF EXEMPT INFORMATION WITHIN THE DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULE 12A TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, NAMELY PARAGRAPH 12, INFORMATION RELATING TO A PARTICULAR INDIVIDUAL AND PARAGRAPH 14, INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE AUTHORITY HOLDING THAT INFORMATION), AND THAT IT WAS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO DO SO AND PARAGRAPH 18, INFORMATION RELATING TO ANY ACTION TAKEN OR TO BE TAKEN IN CONNECTION WITH THE PREVENTION, INVESTIGATION OR PROSECUTION OF CRIME.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting pursuant to Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 for the above reasons, and that it was in the public interest to do so.

The Chief Fire Officer C Davies, Director of Service Delivery M Crennell, Director of Operational Support and Improvement R Quin, Treasurer/Director of Resources E

Aitken, The Corporate Head of Response R Thomas, The Corporate Head of Prevention and Protection C Margetts, Executive Support Officer I Cray, Corporate Head of Operational Support and Improvement K Jones, Mr H W Jones and Ms G Storr departed the meeting at this point.

11. (Formerly item 15) TO CONSIDER A REPORT ON THE CHIEF OFFICERS' TRIENNIAL PAY REVIEW.

The Clerk/Monitoring Officer presented the report on the Chief Officers' Triennial Pay Review and requested that Members note the additional circulated Appendix setting out further comments from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW).

It was moved that the item be adjourned until the Fire Authority meeting scheduled for 11 February 2016.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that the report on the Chief Officers' Triennial Pay Review be adjourned until the Fire Authority meeting of 11 February 2016.

Exclusion of the press and public lifted – Members of the press and public were now free to re-join the meeting.

12. TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE CIPFA CONFERENCE 07-09 JULY 2015.

(Formerly item 10)

The Chair of the Resource Management Committee, Councillor Elwyn Williams presented a report to Members on the CIPFA Conference which took place on 07-09 July 2015, and recommended to Members that the CIPFA conference remained on the standing list of conferences.

Councillor K Pearson questioned if matters concerning Wales and Scotland, as well as matters concerning England, were also discussed at the conference, to which the Chair of the Resource Management Committee confirmed they were.

The Chief Fire Officer commented on how impressed he had been with the speakers at the CIPFA conferences. Councillor K Pearson enquired if a request could be made for a similar conference to be held in Wales, to which the Director of Resources responded and advised Members that there was a number of CIPFA conferences held in Wales

Councillor S Paddison commented that she felt the conferences were good value for money and endorsed delegates' attendance.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that:

- 1. The report of the CIPFA Conference 07-09 July 2015 be noted and is maintained on the standing list of conferences.***

13. TO RECEIVE THE SERVICES NEW 5 YEAR SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY REPORT 2015/20

(Formerly item 11)

The Director of Operational Support and Improvement presented the Service's new 5 year sustainability and environmental strategy report 2015/20 to Members, which had been constructed by the Sustainability and Environmental Group which Councillor K Curry was a member of. It was reported to Members that following the introduction of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, more tangible targets had been set which were outlined within the report.

Members were informed that the Fire Authority had been successful in obtaining funding for LED lighting in Service premises from Invest to Save, which would enable the Authority to potentially save £50,000 a year. The Director of Operational Support and Improvement confirmed that as the government funding had been severely reduced for Solar Panels, the Service may no longer be looking at installing Solar Panels in its premises'. In response to this statement Councillor K Curry confirmed he had received an email from Of-gem which had confirmed that the tariff for solar panels had been postponed.

A spelling error in the introduction regarding the word environment was noted by Councillor Thomas and it was agreed that this would be corrected. In response to a query raised by Councillor K Pearson, the Director of Operational Support and Improvement confirmed that all targets were measurable and the Service had their own target timelines in place. Councillor K Pearson commented on concerns regarding bio-diversity and the Director of Operational Support and Improvement responded to confirm that a Joint Arson and Wildfire Group had been put in place to look at all aspects of these matters in order to eliminate risk. Councillor K Pearson enquired if funding would be provided by Welsh Government and it was confirmed that the matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the Sustainability and Environmental Group.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that the New 5 Year Sustainability & Environmental Strategy 2015-2020 be approved for publication.

14. TO RECEIVE THE FINANCIAL STRATEGY REPORT

(Formerly
item
12)

The Director of Resources introduced the report and confirmed that a Financial Reserves Strategy (set out in Appendix A) had been introduced following a recommendation received from a Financial Resilience audit. It was confirmed to Members that the Strategy was to record the reporting of reserves and the adequacy of reserves for Service needs. It was reported that it was the responsibility of the Treasurer to report on the Authority's financial reserves, as well as recommend to the Fire Authority what reserves should be created. The Resource Management Committee at its meeting on Monday 16 November 2015 recommended that the Strategy be approved by the Fire Authority.

The Director of Resources recommended that Committee Members approve the Strategy for inclusion in the Financial Regulations within the Constitution.

RESOLUTION

- 1. It was RESOLVED that the Financial Reserves Strategy be approved for publication.***
- 2. It was RESOLVED that the Financial Reserves Strategy is included in the Financial Regulations within the Constitution.***

15. TO RECEIVE A REPORT REGARDING ARTICLE 5 OF THE CONSTITUTION – PROTOCOL FOR THE CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE FIRE AUTHORITY

(Formerly
item
13)

The Clerk presented a report regarding Article 5 of the Constitution, which set out the role and duties of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority. Members were requested to consider and deliberate on potential amendments to Article 5, which governs the role of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Fire Authority, in order that the Article capture best practice, set clear parameters of the role, and further deliver and embody the principles of leadership and clarity. It was reported that some suggested amendments to Article 5 were set out in Appendix 2 and had been underlined for ease of reference. Members were then provided with an overview of the proposed changes.

The Clerk/Monitoring Officer confirmed that one of the recommendations from the Democratic Services Forum was that if Members considered any correspondence received to be confidential, or if it was marked as such, then they should seek advice from the Clerk/Monitoring officer, and / or deal with it in the appropriate way.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that the Fire Authority adopt the amended protocol for the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Fire Authority and the Constitution be updated accordingly.

16.
(Formerly
item
14)

TO RESOLVE THAT PURSUANT TO SECTION 100A (4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, THAT THE PRESS AND PUBLIC BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING FOR THE REASON, THAT IF THEY WERE PRESENT, IT IS LIKELY THAT THERE WOULD BE DISCLOSURE TO THEM OF EXEMPT INFORMATION WITHIN THE DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULE 12A TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, NAMELY PARAGRAPH 12, INFORMATION RELATING TO A PARTICULAR INDIVIDUAL, PARAGRAPH 14, INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE AUTHORITY HOLDING THAT INFORMATION) AND PARAGRAPH 18, INFORMATION RELATING TO ANY ACTION TAKEN OR TO BE TAKEN IN CONNECTION WITH THE PREVENTION, INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF CRIME AND THAT IT WAS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO DO SO.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting pursuant to Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 for the above reasons, and that it was in the public interest to do so.

Ms G Storr departed the meeting at this point.

17.
(Formerly
item
16)

EXEMPT - TO RECEIVE A REPORT SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL RESILIENCE CAPABILITY.

The Chief Fire Officer presented Members with a report supporting the National Resilience Capability.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that the report on supporting the National Resilience capability be noted.

18.
(Formerly
item
17)

TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON RESCUE 365'S FIRST YEAR OF PROGRESS

The Chief Fire Officer presented a report to Members on Rescue 365.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that the report on Rescue 365's first year of progress be noted.

Exclusion of the press and public lifted – Members of the press and public were now free to re-join the meeting.

19. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, THE CHAIR DECIDES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY PURSUANT TO SECTION 100(B)(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
(Formerly item 18)

There were none.

The Chair reported to Members that the Fire Authority Meeting scheduled to take place on Monday 08 February 2016 may be amended to take place on Wednesday 10 February or Thursday 11 February and once the arrangements had been made, confirmation of the revised date would be circulated to Members.

The Chair thanked the Chief Fire Officer and the employees of the Fire Authority for all their hard work and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Meeting closed 15:20.