

**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  
21 MEDI 2015**

**MINUTES**

**OF THE FIRE AUTHORITY MEETING**

**The Caer Suite,  
Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Carmarthen  
21 SEPTEMBER 2015**

**10.00 – 12:30**

**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 (departed meeting at 11:30), J Curtice, L Frayling, J Hale, T Hennegan, P James, R Lewis (joined meeting at 10:25), S Paddison, K Pearson, R Rees-Evans, E G Thomas, G Thomas, G Walker, J Warman, DE Williams, J Williams (departed meeting at 12:15)

**YMDDIHEURIADAU/APOLOGIES:** Cyng/Cllrs: G Jones, R Llewellyn, P Pritchard, G Tanner, A Wilcox

**YN BRESENNOL /IN ATTENDANCE:** C Davies, D Daycock, R Quin, C Margetts, K Jones, R Thomas, I Cray, C Jackson, S Flather, V Stevens (Item 10)

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Jones, R Llewellyn, P Pritchard, G Tanner and A Wilcox.

## **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.

Councillors WE Evans, EG Thomas and G Thomas declared a personal interest in all matters relating to the Local Pension Board (discussed at items 16, 17 and 21 of the agenda).

All Officers present declared that they had a personal interest in relation to item 15 of the agenda, namely the Pay Policy Statement.

Cllr 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 Cllr Karen Pearson back to the Fire Authority following a period of ill health. Cllr Pearson thanked Members for the good wishes received during her absence.

The Chair informed Members that a letter of resignation had been submitted by Cllr C Higgins, stating that he was unable to remain on the Fire Authority due to a number of other commitments. Members paid tribute to Cllr Higgins and it was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to him in recognition of his sterling contribution to the Fire Authority during his term of office.

The Chair congratulated all firefighters from across the UK who participated in the IronMan Wales 2015 on 13 September 2015 to raise money for the Firefighters Charity.

Warm wishes were extended to Julie Owens, Democratic Services Officer who would shortly be commencing a period of maternity leave.

Attention was drawn to samples of the new Corporate Workwear which had been put on display for Members to view prior to their introduction across the Service over the coming months.

The Chair reported that Core HR training had been scheduled on conclusion of the meeting and all Members were reminded of the importance of attending the training session which would replace the traditional, paper based payslips with an electronic version.

A warm welcome was extended to Virginia Stevens of KPMG who was in attendance to present item 10 of the agenda, namely the Audit of Financial Statements 2014/15.

**4. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN AS A TRUE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FIRE AUTHORITY HELD ON 3 JUNE 2015**

The minutes of the Fire Authority meeting held on 3 June 2015 were approved as a true record of proceedings, subject to the following amendment:

Item 6 – Composition of Committees: ‘*Janice Dudley (Independent)*’ to be replaced with ‘*Janice Dudley (Plaid Cymru)*’.

There were no matters arising from the meeting.

**5. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE A REPORT ON THE DISSEMINATION OF MEETING MINUTES**

The Clerk / Monitoring Officer reported that as part of the Authority's decision making process, meetings of the Fire Authority were carefully scheduled around statutory timescales, which had, on occasions, resulted in a substantial number of business items being presented to Members. In order to deliver a more manageable meeting agenda, whilst ensuring that due regard was given to items of business, the Democratic Services Forum, had, at its meeting on 16 February 2015, recommended removing the receiving and noting of committee minutes from future Fire Authority agendas.

The Clerk / Monitoring Officer reported that, as a matter of good governance Members could still be appropriately sighted on matters relating to the business of the Fire Authority via a blanket approach which would involve the electronic distribution of all meeting minutes, including Committees, Working Groups and other Fora, to all members of the Fire Authority. Should members wish any matters to be discussed further, any such issues could be raised either as part of Chair's announcements, or by means of a specific item on the Agenda. The Chair also commented that Members could also request hard copies of minutes, if required.

In response to a query from Cllr P James, the Head of Corporate Communications and Business Development clarified that all Fire Authority and Committee meetings were audio recorded.

**RESOLUTION**

***It was RESOLVED that***

- 1. The receiving and noting of committee minutes be removed from future Fire Authority meeting agendas;***
- 2. All Members receive electronic copies of all meeting minutes, including Committees, Working Groups and other Fora;***

**3. Article 19 (sections 19.9.1 and 19.12.1) of the Authority's Constitution be amended to reflect the above changes.**

**6. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE CHAPLAINS UPDATE REPORT**

The Chief Fire Officer reported that The Reverend Canon Illtyd Protheroe would be retiring from his pastoral duties on 31 October 2015, following an exceptional 41 years' service to the Church in Wales. The Reverend Canon Protheroe had indicated that he would like to continue with the Chaplaincy service that he had provided to Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service within the areas of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire for some 13 years, subject to Members' approval.

Furthermore, the Chief Fire Officer reported that a number of recent changes within the Ministry within the Swansea area had culminated in one of the Service Chaplains, The Reverend Jonathan Davies, moving to the Parish of Llynderw and being bestowed the prestigious honour of being made a Canon.

Cllr P James noted that the Service was fortunate to be provided with the voluntary services of Reverend Canon Protheroe, who was a well-respected Chaplain within both the Authority and Service alike.

In response to a query from Cllr Paddison, the Corporate Head of Operational Support and Improvement confirmed that the pastoral care offered was non-denominational and offered to all without exception regardless of having a particular faith or indeed no faith at all. Furthermore, a recent cultural audit indicated that employees were satisfied that there were sufficient facilities in place to cater for different religious beliefs.

Members extended their appreciation for the continued and valuable support provided by the Chaplains and asked that a letter be sent on behalf of the Authority to each Chaplain recording these thanks.

**RESOLUTION**

***It was RESOLVED that***

- 1. The continuation of service provided by The Reverend Canon Illtyd Protheroe as Chaplain for the Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire Command areas be agreed.***
- 2. The Institution and Induction of The Reverend Jonathan Davies as Vicar of Llynderw Parish which took place on 3 September 2015 be noted.***
- 3. Members note that on 13 September 2015 the Reverend Jonathan Davies was bestowed the honour of being made a Canon of Brecon Cathedral and became a member of the Cathedral Chapter in recognition of his dedication and sterling work made within the Church in Wales.***

**4. A letter of thanks be sent to each of the Service Chaplains as a means of conveying the appreciation of the Authority for the continued support and assistance provided by each of the Chaplains.**

**7. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE A REPORT ON THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE ASSURANCE STATEMENT**

The Head of Finance presented the report on the Corporate Governance Assurance Statement to Members.

Members were provided with an overview of the management of corporate governance within the Authority, which was undertaken in line with the CIPFA / SOLACE framework. These governance arrangements included various internal and external audits on the management of information, financial procedure rules and financial instructions, contract standing orders, administrative arrangements and management supervision, all of which had given general assurance regarding the control and proper administration of the Authority's financial affairs. In addition KPMG, on behalf of the Wales Audit Office, had reported during the year that Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority resources were being used economically, efficiently and effectively.

Members' attention were drawn to Appendix 1 of the report and it was proposed that the Fire Authority, having reviewed the positive Corporate Governance audits, approve the Statement of Assurance for signature by the Chair of the Authority and the Chief Fire Officer, for inclusion in the Statement of Accounts.

In response to a query from Cllr T Hennegan, Members were informed that the report had been presented to Members of the Performance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on the 27 July 2015 where it had been deliberated in detail and recommended for approval by the Fire Authority.

**RESOLUTION**

***It was RESOLVED that Members approve the Statement of Assurance for signature by the Chair of the Authority and the Chief Fire Officer, for inclusion in the Statement of Accounts.***

**8. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015**

The Head of Finance presented the final audited Annual Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2015 for approval.

Members gave consideration to the Statement of Accounts which comprised various accounting statements including the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, and the Cash Flow Statement which had been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

Particular attention was paid to the level and content of reserves which were set aside for known commitments or 'invest to save' initiatives. In response to a query from Cllr S Paddison, the Head of Finance clarified that the surplus figure put into Reserves was a result of a timing issue whereby savings had been realised quicker than anticipated. However it was confirmed that this underspend would not be carried forward to the following year as those savings had already been budgeted for.

Members requested that in future, the Statement of Accounts be streamed electronically on the projector screen to allow Members to collectively consider the Accounts in detail at the meeting.

## **RESOLUTION**

***It was RESOLVED that the Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2015 be approved.***

### **9. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE LETTERS OF REPRESENTATION REGARDING THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015**

The Head of Finance reported that the Wales Audit Office, as the Appointed Auditor, and KPMG LLP, who had carried out the Audit, each required a separate letter of representation regarding the 2014/15 Statement of Accounts before the audit of the Financial Statements could be completed. The letters set out the management, financial statement and Authority representations for the purpose of expressing an opinion on their truth and fairness.

It was reported that the letters presented to Members had to be approved by the Authority and then be signed by both the Treasurer and the Chair of the meeting considering the letters.

## **RESOLUTION**

***It was RESOLVED that the two Letters of Representation be approved and signed by the Chair of the meeting and the Director of Resources.***

### **10. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE A REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2014/15**

KPMG Auditor Virginia Stevens presented the joint report on the Audit of Financial Statements report 2014/15 following the completion of the audit by the Appointed Auditor (Wales Audit Office) and the Auditor responsible for carrying out the audit (KPMG). Ms Stevens informed Members that the Audit of Financial Statements report contained details of the draft Audit opinion to be published with the Statement of Accounts.

Ms Stevens made reference to some minor amendments that were currently being finalised, however it was explained to Members that overall there were no significant

issues which required reporting to the Authority. Members were pleased to note that there were no concerns relating to the qualitative aspects of the Authority's accounting practices and financial reporting.

Cllr K Pearson made reference to the summary of corrections outlined in Appendix 3 of the report and it was confirmed that Wales Audit Office would be overseeing these during the next year.

Cllr S Paddison commended the Head of Finance and his team on the high standard of their work which had resulted in only one recommendation being made which related to the authorisation of new suppliers.

## **RESOLUTION**

***It was RESOLVED that the Audit of Financial Statements 2014/ 15 report be noted.***

### **11. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND THE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES ON BUDGET INDICATIONS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2016/17**

The Chief Fire Officer presented the report on the budget indications for the financial year 2016/17 which had been directed by the Budget Corporate Planning days held in April, July and September 2015 whereby Members provided informal indication on the level of cuts to be considered for 2016-17.

Members were aware that the early planning of budget matters were of particular importance given that the UK Government's Comprehensive Spending Review was currently planned for announcement on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015, which would therefore impact on the timing of the Welsh Government's own announcement for Local Government and probably result in short notice being given to Authorities, lessening the time available for them to react to potentially severe budget announcements.

Members were provided with an overview of the substantial real cash efficiencies made over the last 10 years from a combination of operational and corporate initiatives which had resulted in savings of £7.7million (17%) of the budget. The Chief Fire Officer reported that such efficiencies had resulted in a reduction in staffing numbers on stations by 27% and middle/senior manager posts by 34%. The Authority's proactive approach to delivering value for money in times of austerity had resulted in the organisation becoming extremely lean and therefore representations had been made to the Minister for 'protection' of the Service to avoid adversely affecting service delivery within communities.

Reference was made to an on-going public survey which attempted to seek views on various aspects of the Fire and Rescue Service, and the results to date indicated that of the 1,200 respondents, 82% would prefer to pay more to stop any further cuts in service delivery.

Members' attention was drawn to Appendix B of the report whereby Members gave

consideration to a list of potential efficiencies which would result in savings on the revenue budget of up to £1.54million without affecting service delivery at stations or in prevention work. It was reiterated that any further erosion would compromise service delivery and prohibit diversification activities which would place a greater burden on Constituent Authority services such as housing and social services.

Members were reminded that it was the responsibility of the Constituent Authorities, through the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and the powers contained within the Combination Scheme Order, to discharge their duties to maintain an effective Fire and Rescue Service in their areas through the Combined Fire and Rescue Authority. The Fire and Rescue Services unique funding methodology was reiterated to Members and it emphasised that there was no requirement for the Authority's budget increase/decrease to reflect the Constituent Authority settlements.

The Chief Fire Officer provided a breakdown of the £8.5 Million within the Reserves, the majority of which had been committed to specific projects.

In terms of grant funding, Members were informed that the budget projection put forth for consideration had assumed that the community safety grant would remain at its current level and that Welsh Government would continue to pay the revenue and capital costs of the Firelink / Airwave communications system until its implementation in 2019.

Members were reminded of the success of the Authority's community safety initiatives which had contributed to a 58% reduction in fires over a 10 year period and resulted in an economic saving of £83million to the local economy. It was emphasised, however, that the Service was a risk based organisation and not demand led therefore the reduction in the number of incidents would only be sustainable through maintaining ongoing preventative work.

With regard to the savings projected, the Chief Fire Officer provided Members with a breakdown of the validation factors which highlighted the implications and pressures to be considered as part of the budget setting process.

In response to a query from the Chair the Corporate Head of Operational Support and Improvement confirmed that the reduction in training budget would not affect the risk critical training provision.

Following a query from Councillor P James, the Chief Fire Officer confirmed that his presentation to each of the Constituent Authority Council meetings will detail the Authority's budget requirement and allow the constituent Authorities to discuss any areas of concern.

Councillor J Warman emphasised the importance of community safety initiatives and the associated value for money provided in terms of the safety of citizens and protection of life and reiterated the need to support preventative strategies.

In response to a query from Councillor P James, the Chief Fire Officer provided an

update to Members regarding Rescue 365 and clarified that whilst the company was in its infancy, Members could hopefully expect future grant donations from the profits of Rescue365 to be invested as the Authority sees fit.

A discussion ensued relating to the current non-statutory role of the Fire and Rescue Service in terms of flooding in addition to the diversification activities recognised by Welsh Government that could ease the burden on Constituent Authorities and Health budgets.

In response to queries from Councillors T Hennegan and S Paddison the Chief Fire Officer referred to the Strategic Risk Review which had been set up within the organisation, comprising of a small team, set up to undertake an internal and external assessment of the environment to investigate potential future opportunities and options. The Corporate Head of Operational Support and Improvement confirmed that regular updates would be provided to Members through the Resource Management Committee.

Councillor S Paddison requested clarity on the roles and responsibilities of Officers and it was agreed that a presentation be provided on conclusion of the next Resource Management Committee to include the generic roles of staff.

Following a query from Councillor J Bayliss regarding possible transitional budgets, the Chief Fire Officer confirmed that a consultation document issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government had suggested that the Police and Crime Commissioner could take responsibility for Fire and Rescue Services, in England, however this would be subject to local agreement. The Chief Fire Officer emphasised that the Minister had clarified that he had no intentions for Wales to follow suit.

In response to a query from Councillor G Walker in relation to vehicle response times, it was agreed that a discussion would take place outside the meeting to provide an overview of the Service's mobilisation protocols.

## **RESOLUTION**

***It was RESOLVED that the Fire and Rescue Authority agree the following early intentions:-***

- 1) That savings of approximately £1.540 million be made from the budget, adjusted for inflation, pay awards and other commitments, as set out in the list of efficiencies at Appendix B of the report.***
- 2) That the additional insurance costs over budget be brought into the revenue budget, and funding be phased in over the next 2 years. Thus £250,000 be funded from reserves in 2016/17, and £150,000 in 2017/18. No further funding of the revenue budget from reserves.***
- 3) That reserves be utilised to fund capital originally planned to be funded by borrowing, thus saving £60,000 on the revenue account each year.***

*(included in the list of efficiencies at Appendix B) .*

**4) That the resulting budget would be £44,292,049, with £44,042,049 falling on the Constituent Authorities (an increase of £273,000 or 0.62%) and £250,000 falling on reserves. (See Appendix A).**

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

Item adjourned until the Fire Authority meeting scheduled for 14 December 2015.

**13. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT 2014/15**

The Chief Fire Officer provided an overview of the Annual Performance Assessment for 2014/15 which outlined the Authority's performance against the improvement objectives set out within the Annual Improvement Plan for 2014/15.

Attention was drawn to page 3 of the report whereby the Chief Fire Officer provided updated statistics in relation to the number of incidents attended during 2014/15. It was noted that the statistics on page 20 would also be reviewed and updated as required.

Councillor G Walker highlighted a possible discrepancy on page 12 of the report relating to the trend in the number of people being killed or injured in dwelling fires over the last 5 years in comparison with statistics published by Welsh Government. The Director of Operational Support and Improvement clarified that the anomaly in the statistics could be attributed to Welsh Government reporting each calendar year whereas the Authority published statistics based on financial year. It was agreed that the Welsh Government be approached to publish future statistics relating to Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service based on those provided by the Authority which would avoid any further conflicting and misleading information being published.

Councillor R Lewis made reference to the Authority's co-responder provision which had been extended to a total of 14 stations to date. Members were delighted to note that a programme was in place to further extend this provision, along with other initiatives in partnership with WAST, to significantly increase the Authority's medical response provision over the coming year.

Councillor T Hennegan commended the number of Home Fire Safety Checks undertaken in recent years which had significantly benefited the communities of Mid and West Wales.

**RESOLUTION**

***It was RESOLVED that the Annual Performance Assessment for 2014-2015 be approved for publication on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015.***

**14. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE DRAFT ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2016/17, COMMUNICATIONS AND CONSULTATION PLAN AND DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2016-2021**

The Chief Fire Officer reported that in consultation with the Annual Improvement Planning Member Working Group, Heads of Departments, Head of Service Delivery and the Service's Engagement Champions, a total of 12 Draft Corporate Objectives had been developed. Attention was drawn to Appendix 1 of the Report whereby Members considered the Draft Annual Improvement Plan for 2016-17 which was structured in line with advice provided by the Wales Audit Office and reflected the risks within the communities served.

Members were informed that the Annual Improvement Planning Member Working Group had endorsed the objectives at their meeting on the 7 September 2015 and recommended that the Fire Authority approve the Draft Annual Improvement Plan 2016-17 at Appendix 1 for public consultation.

Members were referred to Appendix 2 of the report which provided a comprehensive Communication and Consultation Plan which had been developed to direct the consultation and communication elements of the Improvement Planning process.

The Chief Fire Officer reported that due to legislative changes in 2015-16, the Service's five year Strategic Plan had also been revised and Members' attention was drawn to the Draft Strategic Plan 2016-21 set out in Appendix 3 of the report.

Reference was made to a draft booklet which had been developed to support the Annual Improvement Plan and provide key statistics relating to the Service's geographical area, population, cost and incidents attended. The Head of Corporate Communications and Business Development confirmed that Members would receive copies of the finalised booklets for distribution within communities and copies would also be available at all Service locations and at key events.

In response to queries from Councillors K Pearson and S Paddison, the Corporate Head of Operational Support and Improvement provided an overview of the recognised Trade Unions within the Service. Members were informed that Pay and Terms and Conditions of Employment formed part of a bargaining process with recognised Trade Union representatives and as such, each employee could determine whether or not to become a member of a Trade Union. The Corporate Head of Operational Support and Improvement highlighted the various mechanisms available to employees to raise concerns and Members were assured that the public consultation process for the Draft Annual Improvement Plan provided an opportunity for any individual to respond.

In response to a query from Councillor P James in relation to Objective 3, the Corporate Head of Prevention and Protection provided an overview of the main streams contained within the Welsh Government Road Safety Strategy and outlined the Service's role in delivering those outcomes. Councillor P James highlighted that the Authority should receive additional funding to support the commendable work

undertaken in providing road safety education.

## **RESOLUTION**

***It was RESOLVED that:***

- 1. The Draft Annual Improvement Plan 2016-17 be approved for consultation.***
- 2. The Communication and Consultation Plan be noted.***
- 3. The revised Draft Strategic Plan 2016-21 be noted.***

### **15. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE REVISED PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2015/16**

The Clerk / Monitoring Officer reminded Members that the Fire Authority had approved its Pay Policy Statement for 2015/16 in line with Section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011. However, subsequent national pay awards, and changes to the Service's Management Structure required revisions to the Statement and as such Members were referred to Appendix A of the report which set out an updated Pay Policy Statement for Mid and West Wales Fire Authority for the financial year 2015/16 for approval.

## **RESOLUTION**

***It was RESOLVED that the updated Pay Policy Statement for 2015/16 be approved.***

### **16. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE A REPORT ON THE LOCAL PENSION BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Clerk / Monitoring Officer presented the report outlining the Local Pension Board's updated Terms of Reference which provided greater detail in relation to how the Fire Authority and Board Members would discharge their responsibilities.

The Clerk / Monitoring Officer reported that the Local Pension Board updated its Terms of Reference at its inaugural meeting on 13 July 2015, and recommended that they be approved by the Fire Authority. Members were provided with an overview of the notable amendments to the Terms of Reference set out in Appendix 1 of the report, and of particular interest was the recommendation that the Employers Side be made up of Two Elected Members and Two Officers (appointed via an application process) to help alleviate any potential turn-over of Board Members. This was considered particularly relevant in view of the training commitment required of Board Members.

In addition, the Local Pension Board recommended that any future appointments to the Scheme Member Representative side be selected via an application process to ensure that all members within the Firefighters' Pension Scheme(s) received an equal opportunity to be considered for the role of Scheme Member Representative.

## RESOLUTION

*It was RESOLVED that the updated Terms of Reference for the Local Pension Board be approved.*

### 17. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE A REPORT ON THE FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION SCHEME 2015 DISCRETIONS POLICY

The Corporate Head of Operational Support and Improvement reported that the Authority was required to confirm how it would apply certain employer discretions in relation to the Firefighters' Pension Scheme Regulations (Wales) 2015 and other pension related regulations in the form of a discretions policy statement.

Attention was drawn to Appendix A of the report which provided a draft Discretions Policy statement in relation to the exercise of a number of discretions under the Firefighters' Pension Scheme Regulations (Wales) 2015.

Members noted the determinations outlined within the policy in respect of Continual Professional Development payments being treated as pensionable pay [Regulation 26 (1) (d)] and absence from scheme employment requiring payment of Member and Employer Contributions [Regulation 120 (2), (3) and (4)].

In response to a query from Councillor G Walker, the Corporate Head of Operational Support and Improvement agreed to provide further information in relation to the pension entitlement of Self Rostered Crewing Staff.

## RESOLUTION

*It was RESOLVED that the Local Pension Board Discretions Policy be approved.*

### 18. 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.

## 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.*

### 19. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN AS A TRUE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE FIRE

## **AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 9 FEBRUARY 2015**

The minutes of the Fire Authority meeting held on 9 February 2015 were approved as a true record of proceedings.

There were no matters arising from the meeting.

### **20. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN AS A TRUE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL FIRE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 23 MARCH 2015**

The minutes of the Extra-ordinary General Fire Authority meeting held on 23 March 2015 were approved as a true record of proceedings.

There were no matters arising from the meeting.

### **21. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE A REPORT ON THE APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF THE LOCAL PENSION BOARD**

The Clerk / Monitoring Officer reported that a competitive procurement process had been undertaken in order to appoint a suitably qualified individual to the role of Independent Member / Chair of the Local Pension Board for an initial 3 year term of office in accordance with the Local Pension Board's Terms of Reference and its obligations as a Scheme Manager.

The Clerk / Monitoring Officer provided an overview of the appointments process and referred Members to Appendix A of the report which provided further information in relation to the successful applicant's background and qualifications.

#### **RESOLUTION**

*It was RESOLVED that the appointment of an Independent Member / Chair of the Local Pension Board for an initial 3 year term be noted.*

### **22. 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**

There were no items of urgent business.

Meeting closed 12:30.