

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, Caerfyrddin

10 RHAGFYR 2018

MINUTES

OF THE FIRE AUTHORITY MEETING

The Caer Suite,

Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Carmarthen

10 DECEMBER 2018

10.00 – 12.40

88% PRESENOLDEB/ATTENDANCE

Presennol yn y Cyfarfod/Present at Meeting:

Cadeirydd/ Chair: Councillor R Rees-Evans
Is-Gadeirydd/ Deputy Chair: Councillor J Curtice

Aelodau/Members: Cyng/Cllrs: C Anderson, G Breeze, K Broom, M Charles, K Curry, C Evans, L Frayling, J Hale, P James, R Lewis, A Llewelyn, C Mills, D Thomas, E Thomas, T Van-Rees, G Walker, E Williams, A Woolcock, M Crowley, J Curtice, T Hennegan, J Warman.

Ymddiheuriadau/Apologies: Cyng/Cllrs: A Brinn, S Joseph (received post meeting)

Yn Bresennol /In Attendance: D Daycock (Clerk/Monitoring Officer), C Moore (Section 151 Officer), C Davies (CFO), R Quin (T/DCFO), R Thomas (T/ACFO), K Jones (ACO), I Cray (AM), M Harries (AM), S Jenkins (AM), P Greenslade (T/AM), C Jackson (Head of CCBD), S Mansbridge (Head of Finance), Clare James (WAO representative), Eleanor Bowdler (WAO representative). Sarah Botterill (IIP), Hywel Jones (Chair of Standards).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Brinn.

NB: Apologies of absence were also received from Councillor S Joseph post meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF ANY PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

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

All Members declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item 12, namely the Draft Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales 2019/20. Councillor Anderson also declared a personal interest in respect of his position as the current Deputy Chair of the Performance Audit and Scrutiny Committee.

All Officers present, with the exception of the Chief Fire Officer (CFO) declared a personal interest in Items 13 of the Agenda, namely the Local Pension Scheme Discretionary Policies; and Item 17 namely, the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992 – Retrospective Treatment of Temporary Promotion.

3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS / PERSONAL MATTERS

The Chair reminded Members that the meeting was audio recorded and that the recording would be published on the Service's external website.

The Chair announced with regret, the sad passing of former Chair of the Authority, Gillian Thomas. The Chair praised the dedication Gillian had shown to the Authority over the years and paid tribute not only to her professionalism as a colleague, but her warmth as a friend to all Members of the Authority. The Chair then asked Members to be upstanding and to join him in a minute's silence in her memory.

The Chair welcomed Clare James and Eleanor Bowdler of the Wales Audit Office, who were in attendance to discuss matters relating to the Authority's Financial Statements.

The Chair also welcomed Sarah Botterill from the Investors In People (IIP) accrediting body, and was delighted to announce that Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service had attained the Platinum level of accreditation. The Chair then invited Ms Botterill to say a few words on the accreditation itself.

Ms Botterill informed Members that the Service had attained the prestigious award following a rigorous two-year accreditation process, and that of the 15,000 IIP organisations based in 75 different countries worldwide, only 1% had achieved the Platinum Award; and that Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service was also the only Fire and Rescue Service in the world to do so. Ms Botterill explained that the accreditation process had identified that the level of leadership within the organisation was highly commended and that personnel across the Service had embraced the

cultural change which was evident over recent years. Ms Botterill departed the meeting at this time.

Councillor Van-Rees wished to commend the outstanding performance of the Llanwrtyd Wells Station in respect of the Llangammarch Wells incident, and explained that Llanwrtyd Wells Town Council would be holding a civic reception for the Station personnel to thank them on behalf of the community.

The Chair extended his thanks and that of the Authority to Mark Jones of the Wales Audit Office, for his work in respect of the audit of the Authority's financial statements.

The Chair reminded Members that the Service's Annual Christmas Carol Service would be held at Llanrhystud Church on Wednesday evening (12 December) from 19.00hours.

The Chair also reminded Members that a visit to the Joint Public Service Centre in Bridgend had been arranged for Tuesday 18 December 2018.

The Chair also encouraged Members to download the Christmas single, 'Do they know it's Christmas', sung by The Fire Tones. The Chair explained that the idea to bring together firefighters from across the UK to vie for the number one slot in the Christmas chart, while raising money for The Fire Fighters Charity, was born by Firefighter Chris Birdsell from Welshpool Fire Station. Deputy Chief Fire Officer Rob Quin commended the commitment of all those involved in the venture and further endorsed the single. Councillors G Breeze, C Anderson and P James also echoed the achievements of The Fire Tones and encouraged all Members to purchase the single if they had not already done so.

The Chair also commended Aberaeron Fire Station for raising £40,000 for a new co-responder vehicle for the community.

The Chair advised Members that the Chair of the Standards Committee was running a little late and as such Members agreed to receive Agenda Item 4, namely, the Standards Committee Annual Report 2017/18, once the Chair of the Standards Committee had arrived.

4 **TO RECEIVE AND NOTE A REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2016/17**

(form
erly
5)

The Section 151 Officer presented the Appointed Auditor's Statutory ISA260 report for 2016/17 to Members.

The summary of the report was provided to Members, with acknowledgement that as previously reported, there had been delays in finalising the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2017, but that this work had now been completed.

The Section 151 Officer thanked Mark Jones of the Wales Audit Office for his work on the audit of the Authority's financial statements and welcomed Clare James who would be taking over from Mark.

The Section 151 Officer was pleased to report the unqualified status of the audit report, but noted that there was still one item outstanding, which would be addressed at item 17 of the Agenda, relating the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992 – Retrospective Treatment of Temporary Promotion.

Clare James confirmed the unqualified status of the audit report and summarised the key issues arising from the audit to Members (as outlined on page 5 of Appendix A).

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that the Appointed Auditor's ISA260 report for the financial statements for 2016/17 be noted.

5 **TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE LETTERS OF REPRESENTATION REGARDING THE 2016/17 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(form
erly
6)

The Section 151 Officer introduced the letter of representation for the 2016/17 financial statements to Members.

The Section 151 Officer explained to Members that this was a standard letter, to be signed by the Section 151 Officer himself and the Chair of the Authority, declaring that to their knowledge the financial statement for 2016/17 are a true and accurate representation.

Clare James thanked the Director of Resources, the Section 151 Officer and the Head of Finance for the work that had been undertaken in completing the accounts.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that the letter of representation to the Auditor General Wales be approved for signature by the Section 151 Officer and the Chair of the Authority.

6 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE AUDIT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2016/17

(form
erly
7)

The Section 151 Officer introduced the Statement of Accounts for 2016/17, which had been made available to Members electronically at Appendix A.

The Section 151 Officer provided an overview of the Accounts presented at Appendix A which provided a summary of the financial position of the Authority for the year ended 31 March 2017, inclusive of amendments agreed with Wales Audit Office as part of their audit.

Councillor Broom queried the accuracy of the timeline on P3 (3.3. and 3.4) of the accounts. The Section 151 Officer confirmed that the timeline outlined was accurate, however, agreed with Councillor Broom that Section 3.3 should read 'revised set of accounts' for clearer reading.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that the Statement of Accounts for 2016/17 be approved.

7 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE – ASSURANCE STATEMENT 2016/17

(form
erly
8)

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer introduced the Code of Corporate Governance Assurance Statement 2016/17, attached at Appendix A.

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer explained that the Welsh Government, in its guidance on the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulation 2014, anticipates that all relevant bodies will prepare an annual governance statement on internal control.

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer confirmed that Members would be familiar with the Annual Governance Statement for 2016/17, which had been reported to the Performance Audit and Scrutiny Committee on 24 July 2017; but noted that due to the delay in producing the 2016/17 financial statement, the Annual Governance Statement had been updated and was included at Appendix A for Members' information.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that the Annual Governance Statement for year ended 31st March 2017 be approved for signature by the Chair of the Authority and the Chief Fire Officer.

8 TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE BUDGET OUTTURN FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2017/18

(form
erly
9)

The Section 151 Officer presented the Revenue and Capital Programme outturn position for the year ended 31st March 2018 to Members.

The Section 151 Officer explained that the report would normally be presented to Members in June/July following the year end, but had been purposely held back to allow consistency of reporting with the Statement of Accounts for the same period, which would be reported at the next Agenda item.

The Section 151 provided Members with a summary of the report and drew Members' attention to page 6 of the report and the underspend of £346k, confirming that the surplus had been transferred to the General Fund Balance and would be available for use in future years.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that the Budget Outturn for the Financial Year 2017/18 be noted.

9 TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE PRESENTATION OF THE UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2017/18

(formerly 10)

The Section 151 Officer introduced the Unaudited Statement of Accounts for 2017/18 to Members, which had been made available to Members electronically at Appendix A.

The Section 151 Officer provided Members with a summary of the Statement of Accounts and confirmed that he certified them to be a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at 31st March 2018, for presentation to Audit.

The Chair acknowledged that under the Constitution, it is for the Resources Management Committee to receive the draft annual Statement of Accounts prior to audit, but that due to delays in preparing the accounts and timescales agreed for audit, the unaudited accounts were being presented directly to the Fire Authority on this occasion.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that the report be noted.

10 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER ON THE BUDGET INDICATIONS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2019/20

(formerly 11)

All Members declared a personal interest.

The Chief Fire Officer reminded Members that the report was a culmination of several budget planning discussions held with Members throughout the year and sets out the budget requirement for 2019/20, the Medium Term Financial Plan and the 5-year Capital Programme. The Chief Fire Officer also noted that the report had been supported by the Resource Management Committee at their meeting on 12 November 2018, who recommend the report for approval by the Fire Authority.

The Chief Fire Officer introduced the report to Members and provided the overall financial background and context surrounding the budget requirement recommended for 2019/20. The Chief Fire Officer noted that for presentation purposes only, the indicative budget for 2020/21 had also been included.

A synopsis of the substantial efficiencies made by the Service from a combination of operational and corporate initiatives was provided to Members, including the root and branch review of all service departments and functional areas which had identified single points of failure and areas of improvement and transformation across the organisation.

Members' attention was also drawn to the known unavoidable budget pressures for the forthcoming year in respect of inflation increases, provisional pay award under negotiation, shift change, domestic homicide review, HMRC Officer vehicles and the implications surrounding the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Project.

The Chief Fire Officer also drew Members' attention to Section 4.6 of the report and confirmed that he had met with the Treasurers from the Authority's six Constituent Authorities at Service Headquarters on 18 October. The Chief Fire Officer stated that to his mind the meeting had gone well and that he had received positive feedback from the Treasurers in relation to their clearer understanding of the budget pressures facing the Fire Authority in the coming year.

The Section 151 Officer echoed the Chief Fire Officer's sentiments in relation to the meeting and confirmed that following the meeting, the Treasurers had concluded that it would be unnecessary for the Chief Fire Officer to present to the six Local Constituent Authority's full Council meetings.

The Chief Fire Officer drew Members' attention to Section 6.2 of the report, specifically the ongoing National Pay discussions, which remain unresolved and that any increase in pay would need to be funded centrally as the Authority would not be in a position to support. The Chief Fire Officer also noted the additional pressure of £1.6million identified at Section 6.3 of the report as a result of the Firefighter pension fund employers' contribution forecast to increase from 18.7% to 28.3% with effect from 1 April 2019. The Chief Fire Officer explained that while it had been indicated that the additional £1.6million for 2019/20 would be supported by the Treasury, no formal confirmation had been received to that effect as yet.

In response to Councillor James' question in relation to the differences in operational fire kit outlined on page 12 of the report; the Chief clarified that the Structural PPE (gold kit) is used at property fires; while the lighter weight Multifunctional PPE (red kit), is designed for incidents such as grass fires. The Chief Fire Officer also confirmed that the Service was also researching opportunities to pilot body worn cameras and other wearable technologies.

Councillor Llewellyn commented that he was pleased that the meeting with the Local Authority Treasurers had taken place and provided feedback from the Treasurer of Neath Port Talbot Council, which confirmed that while a lower levy would be preferred, the reasons behind the increase were now clear and understood. Councillor

Llewellyn also confirmed that the Full Council meeting at Neath Port Talbot in January had been earmarked for the Chief Fire Officer to attend to present. The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that he would be happy to attend.

Councillor Llewellyn also raised that he had attended the Consultation and Engagement event in respect of the Service's Corporate Plan 2019/20 at Pontardawe Fire Station; and while he was thankful to Deputy Chief Fire Officer Rob Quin for his time on the phone following the event, he was minded that it would be appropriate to raise at the meeting, the concerns that some members of the community of Pontardawe had in respect of the shift changes at the station.

The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that he was aware of the concerns raised and that the decision had been taken to review crewing arrangements following the ruling of the unlawful crewing system at South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, and that the new crewing arrangement had been agreed in full consultation with the representative bodies. The Chief reassured Members that the most appropriate crewing model had been decided upon based on risk and activity level at the station/area.

In response to concerns raised by Councillor Walker, the Chief Fire Officer clarified that the figures of above 90% attributed to on-call availability provided at the previous meeting was in respect of Service wide availability, not Neath Port Talbot specifically.

In response to a further query raised by Councillor Walker, the Chief Fire Officer provided assurances that Members do not need to request information around availability of appliances via a Freedom of Information request but encouraged Members to telephone a member of the Executive Leadership Team should they have a request for information.

In response to Councillor Walker's concern that Members had voted to downgrade Pontardawe Fire Station, the Chair clarified that that this was an operational matter and not a decision taken by the Authority. The Chief Fire Officer also confirmed that whilst the response would be different, he was confident that the response would be appropriate and proportionate to the level of risk and activity within the area. In response to a further query from Councillor Crowley, the Chief Fire Officer confirmed that in his professional opinion, the new crewing arrangement at Pontardawe would provide the right level of cover for the community of Pontardawe, given the budget constraints.

In response to Councillor Walker's questions regarding whether or not the Authority had purchased a vehicle of between £80-90k for the Chief Fire Officer, the Chair advised that this information was related to the terms and conditions of the Chief Fire Officer and should not be discussed in a public forum. The Section 151 Officer also confirmed that Councillor Walker's information was incorrect, that no vehicle had been purchased and that the Chief Fire Officer's vehicle was part of the Service's lease scheme.

In response to a concern raised by Councillor Woolcock in relation to recommendation 5 of the report, the Clerk confirmed that the recommendation should

be amended, as the decision on whether or not to increase the levy would be made at the Extraordinary meeting itself.

Further to a request from Councillor Curry, Members agreed that the Chief Fire Officer should attend full Constituent Authority meetings to provide an overview of the work of the Authority and the budget pressures and implications. The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that he would approach the Constituent Authorities to make the necessary arrangements.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that the Fire Authority formally support the budget proposals set out for the 2019/20 budget requirement and: -

- 1. Agrees the assumptions for inflation, estimated pay awards and other commitments as set out in the Medium Term Financial Plan at Appendix A.***
- 2. Agrees that the resulting budget requirement for 2019/20 would be a minimum of £47,987,670 with £47,817,670 falling on the Constituent Authorities and £170,000 falling on reserves (Appendix A).***
- 3. Agrees that this would result in an increase of 2.48% on the Constituent Authorities.***
- 4. Agrees the Capital Programme for the period 2022/23 at Appendix B.***
- 5. That the Fire Authority should acknowledge that the Medium Term Financial Plan is based on the assumption that the Firefighter pension fund employer' contribution increase will be funded in full by Her Majesty Treasury (via Welsh Government). Should this not be the case the Fire Authority will meet to consider the levy set to accommodate any shortfall. An Extraordinary General Meeting will be called to consider a revised levy if necessary.***

11 TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

(formerly 4)

The Chair of the Standards Committee, Mr H Jones presented the Standards Committee Annual Report for 2017/18. Members were provided with a synopsis of the Standards Committee's composition, remit and the work undertaken during the reporting period in terms of overseeing, maintaining and strengthening high standards of conduct in public office. Mr H Jones stated that it was pleasing to note that during his term of office, no complaints had been made against Members in respect of their role as members of the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority. Accordingly, whilst no matters had been referred to the Committee for investigation or decision, nevertheless the Committee had an important role in maintaining a culture of compliance within the letter and spirit of the Members' Code of Conduct.

Mr H 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 by means of attendance at the Wales Standards Committee Conference, where at this year's Conference he had had the privileged of jointly hosting a workshop with the Clerk of the Authority Dave Daycock at the Conference, entitled 'The Only Way is Wales?'

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that the Standards Committee Annual Report 2017/18 be noted.

12 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES 2019/20

All Members declared a personal interest and Councillor Anderson departed the meeting for this agenda item.

The Clerk provided Members with a summary of the report and confirmed that there would be an increase of £35 to the basic salary for Members of the Fire and Rescue Authority from the date of the Authority's General Meeting in 2019.

A discussion ensued between Members as to whether or not the provision for up to two additional senior salaries (£5,480 per senior salaries) for Committee Chairs should be paid.

Whilst it was recognised that the role of the Chair of both the Resource Management Committee and Performance Audit and Scrutiny Committee carries additional responsibilities; it was not felt by Members that they carry the significant and sustained responsibility outlined within the criteria to justify the additional salary payments.

RESOLUTION

- i. It was RESOLVED that the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales's draft determinations in relation to members' allowances and remuneration, for implementation in the 2019/20 year be noted.***
- ii. It was also RESOLVED that the Authority support to Resource Management Committee's recommendation not to adopt senior salaries for Chairs of Committees.***

NB Councillor Anderson re-joined the meeting at this time.

13 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME DISCRETIONARY POLICIES

The Section 151 Officer explained to Members that due to the introduction of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) (Amendment) Regulations 2018, there is a requirement on the Fire Authority to review its current discretionary policies and any additional discretions that are required to be formulated under the Regulations that govern the Local Government Pension Scheme.

The Section 151 Officer provided Members with an overview of the changes highlighted within Appendix 1.

RESOLUTION

It was resolved that the Local Government Pension Scheme – Discretionary Policies be approved.

14 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE CABINET SECRETARY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICES' WHITE PAPER 'REFORM OF FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITIES IN WALES'

The Chair presented the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services' White Paper 'Reform of Fire and Rescue Authorities in Wales'.

The Chair confirmed that discussions between the three Fire and Rescue Authority Chairs (and Chiefs) and the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services had been ongoing for about 20 months regarding the future Governance, Finance and Performance arrangement of the Fire Authorities in Wales.

The Chair provided Members with a brief summary of the discussions which had taken place, but concluded that to his mind, the White Paper still did not provide any clear rationale for reform, or any clarity on the added value that any change would bring.

The Chair requested that Members take the opportunity to respond to the White Paper individually; but also requested authorisation from Members for a collective response to be drafted in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority, the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of the Resource Management and Performance Audit and Scrutiny Committees, and the Leaders of the political groups on the Authority.

Before opening the debate to Members, the Chair also wished to put on public record his dismay and disappointment at the disrespectful language and tone used by the Cabinet Secretary in both his summary to the Senedd and within the White Paper itself, in reference to the Elected Members represented on the Authority.

The Clerk / Monitoring Officer then provided Members with a brief summary of the White Paper itself, drawing Members attention to a number of objectives proposed within the Paper.

Councillor John Warman echoed the Chair's concerns with regard to the tone and content of the Paper, which he found to be patronising and condescending, especially with regard to the reference to backbenchers. Councillor Warman raised further concerns that the suggestion to link the Authority's membership to local authority cabinets may not be workable due to the significant time commitment and work portfolio required of Constituent Authority cabinet members.

Councillor Woolcock stated that he found the Paper to be one of the most unconvincing arguments for reform he had read in his 24 years' service, with no cogent evidence of expected added value and improvements.

Similar sentiments were also echoed by Councillor Edward Thomas, Councillor Van Rees, Councillor R Lewis, Councillor Llewellyn, Councillor Broom, Councillor P James and Councillor D Thomas.

Members further concluded that the Authority's current structure was considered both democratic and effective, which was clearly and objectively evidenced in the Service's performance.

In response to a request from Councillor Llewellyn, it was agreed that the collective response would be shared with members once drafted.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that:

- i. Members respond to the White Paper individually; and*
- ii. Authorisation be given to the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chair, the Chairs of RM and PAS Committees, the Chief Fire Officer, the Monitoring Officer, and the Leaders of the Political groups on the Fire Authority, to respond collectively on behalf of the Authority.*

- 15 **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).

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED 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).

NB: All Officers, excluding the Chief Fire Officer, departed the meeting, along with Chair of the Standards Committee Hywel Jones.

16 TO CONFIRM AND SIGN AS A TRUE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE FIRE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2018

The minutes of the Fire Authority meeting held on 17 September 2018 were approved as a true record of proceedings.

17 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE A REPORT ON THE FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION SCHEME 1992 – RETROSPECTIVE TREATMENT OF TEMPORARY PROMOTION

Assistant Chief Officer Kevin Jones reminded Members of the decision taken by the Fire Authority at its meeting on 11 December 2017, that the difference between a firefighter's basic pay in their day role and any pay received whilst on temporary promotion, or where they were temporarily required to undertake the duties of a higher role; would be treated as a pensionable pay under Additional Pension Benefit arrangements. However, a decision on the retrospective application of the regulation change could not be made at that time, as consultation was ongoing with Representative Bodies.

Assistant Chief Officer Jones confirmed that following discussions with Representative Bodies, Wales Audit Office and the Welsh Government, a proposal could now be put before the Fire Authority for a decision on the retrospective application of the scheme amendments.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that the proposals set out in Appendix 1 for the retrospective application of regulation changes in the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992 for period of temporary promotion between 1 July 2013 and 31 December 2017 be approved.

Exclusion of the press and public lifted – open session resumed.

- 18 ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCULSTANCES, THE CHAIR DECIDED SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY PURSUANT TO SECTION 100(B)(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972.**

There were no further items of urgent business.

The meeting closed at 12:40