

**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 PERFORMANCE, AUDIT
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AT ITS NEXT MEETING**

**COFNODION CYFARFOD Y PWYLLGOR
ADOLYGU AC ARCHWILIO PERFFORMIAD
MINUTES OF THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**DYDD LLUN, 02 TACHWEDD 2015
MONDAY, 02 NOVEMBER 2015**

**YSTAFELL CAER, PENCADLYS Y GWASANAETH TÂN, CAERFYRDDIN
CAER SUITE, FIRE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS, CARMARTHEN**

11.00 – 13:30

60% PRESENOLDEB/ATTENDANCE

Presennolyn y Cyfarfod/Present at Meeting:

CHAIR Councillor E Thomas

IS-GADEIRYDD/DEPUTY CHAIR:

AELODAU/MEMBERS: Cyng/Cllrs: J Curtice, P James, G Jones,
K Pearson, W Evans (from 11.45) , T
Hennegan, R Rees-Evans, G Tanner, J
Williams, G Walker, K Curry

YMDDIHEURIADAU/APOLOGIES: T Wilcox, J Warman, J Dudley

YN BRESENNOL /IN ATTENDANCE: E Aitken, D Daycock, M Crennell, R Quin,
C Margetts, R Thomas, I Cray
C Jackson, K Davies

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Dudley, J Warman and T Wilcox.

2 DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF ANY PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

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

3 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PERSONAL MATTERS

The Chair welcomed Miss Amy Richmond to the Committee following her temporary appointment to the role of Democratic Services Officer and congratulated her predecessor Mrs Owens who was on maternity leave, on the birth of her baby daughter, Ila Mae on 30 October 2015 weighing 7lbs 5oz.

Deputy Chief Fire Officer Mick Crennell was welcomed back from leave and congratulated on the achievement of his successful climb of base camp Everest and it was confirmed that a substantial amount of money to the sum of £3,500 had been raised for charity. Councillor James questioned that the donation link remained open in order to make further donations, to which Deputy Chief Fire Officer Crennell confirmed that it currently was, and any further donations would be gratefully received.

The Chair also reminded Committee Members that a Partnership Working Briefing had been scheduled on conclusion of the meeting.

4 TO CONFIRM AND SIGN AS A TRUE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 27 JULY 2015

The minutes of the Performance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 27 July 2015 were received and confirmed as a true record of the proceedings.

Matters Arising from the meeting held on the 27 July 2015

Councillor James thanked the Corporate Head of Response for recent communication regarding the Joint Public Service Centre Project (JPSCP) and noted a few points in relation to key stage 3 of the project. Councillor James queried if Peter Davies had returned to North Wales Fire and Rescue Service following his secondment to the Project. The Corporate Head of Response confirmed that the Command and Control System had now been procured and Peter Davies had returned to his substantive role in North Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

Councillor James questioned whether Police employees were taking bags and personal belongings into the Control room and questioned why Fire Service

employees had not been afforded similar conditions. The Corporate Head of Response confirmed that Police and Fire Service staff are subject to different conditions of service. Councillor James accepted this response and stated that he did not wish for employees to feel that they were being treated differently.

Councillor James queried the evacuation chair requirements for individuals with disabilities, the Corporate Head of Response informed the Committee that the evacuation chair had been included within the plans of the building and would remain compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act.

The Director of Operational Support and Improvement referred to page 5, paragraph 6, where a query had been raised previously by Councillor Wilcox regarding the number of hoax calls received by the Service. It was felt that a report was not warranted on this occasion and the Director of Operational Support and Improvement informed Members that call filtering arrangements were to be put in place within the Control room, and this point had been reinforced with Control room employees to enable a reduction in the number of hoax calls attended by the Service.

5 TO RECEIVE AND NOTE A REPORT ON THE JOINT PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE PROJECT (JPSCP)

The Corporate Head of Response presented the progress report on the Joint Public Service Centre Project (JPSCP) which confirmed that it had been the seventh update provided to the Performance Audit and Scrutiny Committee. The Corporate Head of Response informed Members, some aspects had changed within the last three months and the project was on target for its completion date.

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:

The Committee were informed that Key Task Area 2 had been closed down and since moved to Key Task Area 7 which was the Implementation and Transition stage. Members were referred to Appendix 1 which outlined a financial summary as at 30.09.15, the Corporate Head of Response confirmed that the illustrated costs included staff supplies and procurement of a Capita provided command and control System Vision 3, which included development of the existing system and would introduce new working practices.

It was reported that the building work in South Wales Police headquarters had commenced and, it was confirmed that it was progressing well. Members were informed that the site had required a lot of investment, which was reported to be a 4.8-million-pound development, and it was further reported that the development of the command and control site was being undertaken first. Negotiations of layout plans had been made to achieve the necessary compliance for tea rooms and stand down rooms. It was reported that the building work would be completed by

mid-March.

The Corporate Head of Response informed members that the Command and Control System implementation was on-going, and that the system development was a sizeable exercise which involved data migration and management and ensuring that the correct data would be inputted. Members were informed that Station Manager Sarah Rees of South Wales Fire and Rescue Service had taken over from Peter Davies who had returned to his substantive role with North Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

Committee Members received an update on Information Communications Technology. Members were also informed 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 stated that Fire Operational Assurance included a review of current practices and procedures, enabling more effectiveness and to harmonise procedures between services to allow for continuity. An update was provided with regards to the Implementation and Transition stage, and on negotiations between management and the relevant Representative Bodies, regarding the introduction of a staffing model and proposed shift crewing systems and it was confirmed that significant progress had been made on the agreement of a proposed shift system. Governance updates continued to be provided the National Issues Committee and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Members were also provided with an update on the staff engagement day which had taken place in July, it was reported that turnout had not been as anticipated. It was confirmed a further staff engagement date had been arranged for 19 January 2016 to include attendance from the Project Team and Chief Fire Officer to enable questions from employees prior to the merger in May. It was stated to Members that there would be a requirement to undertake an evaluation in order to provide a report to Welsh Government on costings and funds spent on the project.

In response to a query from Councillor Rees-Evans, the Corporate Head of Response confirmed that the dark site had been located in Cardiff and would be utilised in instances such as complete power outages and building evacuations. All 999 calls would be temporarily transferred to North Wales Fire and Rescue Service whilst employees relocated to the alternative replicated site, within a two-hour time period. Members were informed that no disruption would be experienced by the general public on these occasions.

Councillor Hennegan was pleased to note that an agreement had been reached with the relevant Representative Bodies, and enquired if consultation had taken place with Bridgend County Council for benefits to the local communities. It was confirmed that local contractors from the area had been used for the project which had been of benefit to the local area. Councillor Hennegan questioned if queries had been received from Bridgend County Council Councillors, and it was also confirmed there had been none received that she had been made aware of.

Councillor Curry requested a progress update on point 14, Environmental Impact Assessment, and it was explained that South Wales Police had undertaken the Environmental Impact Assessment and information would be provided accordingly for Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, it was also confirmed that once this information had been assessed against Service requirements it would become readily available for Members.

A further query was received from Councillor James regarding apprenticeship schemes, and the incorporation of an apprenticeship scheme within the tendering process for local businesses. The Corporate Head of Response informed Members that the tendering process for the project had been carried out by the Head of Estates, at South Wales Police. It was confirmed that confirmation of this would be sought from South Wales Police and relayed back to Members. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Assistant Chief Officer Reassured Members that an apprenticeship scheme had been incorporated within the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service tendering process, which had been successful for the Aberystwyth project.

Following a query from Councillor James, the Programme Co-Ordinator confirmed the ICT infrastructure, network and servers had been progressed through South Wales Police' Governance and had since been upgraded. It had been reported the upgrade had been a success and well received by personnel.

Councillor Jones enquired who the budget for the project was held by, to which the Programme Co-Ordinator informed Members that South Wales Police were the main budget holder and confirmed that an element of budgetary control was held by the Fire Authority which had been capped, therefore the Fire Authority would remain unaffected if any overspend was to be incurred by the project.

A request was received from Councillor James for further staff engagement correspondence to be circulated for Members information.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that the Performance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee note the report

6 TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE PERFORMANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PROGRESS REPORT – QUARTER 2 2015/16

Part 1 – Our progress on Performance

The Director of Service Delivery presented a quarterly report which had been developed to capture the Service's performance, the details of which were fully set out in the report. It was noted by the Director of Service Delivery that a strategic decision had been made by the Service following the last Performance Audit and Scrutiny Committee meeting, to report against performance indicators and improvement objectives following a key strategic restructure at the beginning of year and this was therefore the first quarter to be reported on for the year. The

Committee was referred to Part 1 of the report, progress on performance, and received an update on projected figures for the 2015-2016 reporting period, following the introduction of Statutory Performance Indicators from Welsh Government.

The Director of Service Delivery reported that good progress had been made against Service objectives and indicators, an increase in the number of grass fires attended had been recorded due to an increase of 4.5% during the spring period, it was also confirmed that reported numbers were relatively low for the summer period. There had been 2 fatalities and 35 injuries due to fires reported in the year to date, it was confirmed that the number of deaths and injuries were projected to be reduced by 18% on the previous year with the five-year trend being flat.

The Committee were informed regarding False Alarm issues, and the Director of Service Delivery advised Members that the Service was currently working hard to reduce the number of False Alarm Calls attended, following the introduction of a new framework document. A slight increase in the number of hoax calls attended was reported and updates were also provided for the number of Road Traffic Collisions attended by the Service.

Councillor Curry thanked the Director of Service Delivery for the report and enquired if there was any data on successful prosecutions and arrests following the increases in grass fires during the Spring. In response it was confirmed that arrests had been made within the South Wales area and that a crime stoppers message had been mirrored across all Fire and Rescue Services. The Director communicated to Members that two prosecutions had been instituted, and that there would be a clear focus and action plan to reduce grass fire incidents moving forward by working closely with Schools, colleagues in the Police, and other services. Further to Councillor Curry's comments, the Director of Service Delivery informed Members that further collaborative work would take place with land owners and Welsh Government, and would be named Operation Dawns Glaw, translated as Rain Dance.

A request was received from Councillor Rees-Evans for a pie chart to be created to include the four areas, this quarter against last quarter and year to date to reflect the necessary decrease in numbers, and this was agreed. In response to a query from Councillor Jones, the Corporate Head of Prevention and Protection advised the Committee that it was presently difficult to determine the cause for the seasonal increase in Road Traffic Collisions and stated the current figures being used had been received from Road Stats Wales which were slightly out of date, and it was confirmed that the Service were looking into the implementation of a system to record the circumstances of Road Traffic Collisions in order to obtain all relevant incident information.

Councillor Terry Hennegan questioned how frequently the Fire Service attended Local Schools to carry out fire inspections. The Corporate Head of Prevention and Protection stated that all Schools would be listed on the re-inspection programme and informed the Committee that the frequency of visits would be based upon a number of factors including the risk, type of School, and number of incidents

attended in the local area. Councillor Hennegan responded by stating a local school within his constituent area had received a Fire Safety exercise and their presence was greatly received within the local community and the local press.

A request was received from Councillor Walker for statistics to be reported to align with Welsh Government which were recorded from January to January for ease of reference and accuracy. In response the Director of Operational Support and Improvement confirmed that they had previously been aligned and further consideration would be provided to this request.

Councillor Rees-Evans stated that Radio Ceredigion had reported of 600 road traffic collision accidents and enquired if this information had been released from the Service. It was confirmed that following the amalgamation of the Communications Department with the Strategic Planning and Performance Department, the statistical information was available and had been released within the public domain.

Following a query raised by Councillor James regarding rural areas and road safety information being made available for motorbike users, the Corporate Head of Prevention and Protection informed Committee Members of continuing Road Safety Partnerships and confirmed that a combined approach to include education would be undertaken with the aim of decreasing incidents. Councillor James enquired if the Service's motorbikes were still being used, and he was informed at they are nearing their expiration date with the Service, and whilst grant funding from Welsh Government had become challenging, members were reassured that other strategies and mechanisms were to be put in place to address these issues.

In response to a query from Councillor James regarding the use of the Road Safety motorcycles where it was suggested they be used as blood bikes, the Director of Operational Support and Improvement informed Committee Members that discussions had taken place with the Welsh Ambulance Trust, Dyfed Powys Police and St John's Ambulance where it had been agreed that MWWFRS would donate one its Road Safety motorcycles to St John then take over the maintenance and running costs. Members were informed that the bikes would remain available to all the Services should they be required for events. Councillor James enquired if the Cold Cut Cobra equipment had been used at any incidents and if feedback had been received from personnel. It was confirmed that the equipment had gone live but had not been used at any operational incidents. The Director also informed Committee Members that the Cold Cut Cobra equipment was cutting edge technology which provides alternative means of fighting fires and it had been received enthusiastically by operational crews.

Part 2 – Our progress on Corporate Projects

The Director of Service Delivery updated members on progress in this area.

The Temporary Corporate Head of Resources provided an update on the Aberystwyth Community Fire Station project. Members were reassured that whilst there had been a small delay, the contractor had confirmed they were confident

this delay would not affect the project completion date. BREEAM sets the standard for best practice in sustainable building design, construction and operation and has become one of the most comprehensive and widely recognised measures of a building's environmental performance. Members were informed that the Aberystwyth project is on track to receiving a much coveted 'Excellent' rating for the completed building.

A meet the buyer event had taken place for contractors from local companies to visit the site and view progress made. The Temporary Corporate Head of Resources reported that the event had been extremely successful where 136 companies attended, of which 105 had been small and medium enterprise companies and 82 local companies. Committee Members were informed that apprentices from Ceredigion College had been provided apprenticeships with the contractor for the duration of the project and discussions would take place for future plans for the apprentices upon completion of the project.

In response to a query raised from Councillor Curry regarding zero waste, the Temporary Corporate Head of Resources answered and confirmed that the site is part of an exciting 'Enabling Zero Waste' initiative in providing practical, positive and active intervention of professional waste management solutions targeted at a small number of Construction and Demolition projects in Wales, and that stone from the previous building had been crushed on site and taken away to be recycled. It was confirmed to Councillor Curry that; no waste would be taken to landfill. A request was received from Councillor Curry for Members to receive regular updates on the progress of the project and the zero waste requirements.

Committee Members were provided with an update on the Core HR-Payroll system by the Director of Resources who confirmed that the implementation of Phase 1 had been completed and the system had gone live with all outstanding issues from phase 1 being worked on. The Director of Resources informed Members that the Payroll Department had worked extremely hard on the implementation of the system. Members were informed that they would now be able to access their pay details online. It was confirmed that other benefits would be transferred to the Core HR-Payroll system which would enable further savings to be made.

Councillor James questioned if all cleaners and non ICT users would be provided access to computers or if their payslips would be printed in order for them to receive a copy of their payslips. A response was provided from the Director of Resources who confirmed that it was not the Services intention to print wage slips; the Service would be undertaking an exercise to identify all individuals requiring training and computer access and will then conduct a review accordingly based on the findings.

Part 3 – Our progress on Improvement

The Director of Service Delivery presented part 3 of the report and reported on the progress of improvement objectives as set out in the Service's Annual Improvement Plan 2015/16. Members were informed that the improvement objectives were to improve service delivery and to further improve collaborative activities to reduce risks, costs and improve outcomes for communities, and that each directorate would provide a condensed and strategic update quarterly to Members.

The Director of Resources updated Committee Members on the objectives contained within the report for the Finance, Procurement, Estates and ICT Departments and members were informed that the development of budgeting systems had provided better controls over capital expenditure and improved monitoring of grant funded projects. The Director of Resources confirmed the development of the Estates Asset Management System which had provided further required information and Members were informed that an upgraded Document Management System (DMS) had been introduced to enable improved access to storage of files. An update was provided on compliance with the wellbeing Act, and also Llandeilo Fire Station and the former workshops in Carmarthen. The Director of Resources provided Members with an update on objective 3 and also informed members that the service was awaiting official confirmation from Powys County Council regarding the joint workshop facilities for the Northern area of the Service.

The Director of Resources reported that the Procurement Department had been working collaboratively with South Wales Fire and Rescue Service for a number of years. And that within the Service's Core Business Improvement process, a large project had commenced within the ICT Department for Office 365 with the storage of all information in one area and the intelligent Document Management System project was on track. An update was received from the Director of Resources for the Finance Department, regarding phase 1 of the Modified Pension Scheme.

Councillor Curry requested further information on the request received from WAST for the collaboration of the Ambulance Service and Llandrindod Wells Fire Station. The Director of Resources informed Members that this would be a temporary arrangement, should it be agreed and that the allocation of area to the Ambulance Service was likely to be within the exterior grounds of the Fire Station. In response to a query raised from Councillor Curry regarding the joint workshop facilities, the Director of Resources confirmed that negotiations had been taking place, the Director of Operational Support and Improvement seconded this information and informed Members that a meeting had taken place in October with Nigel Bryn, Powys County Council Transport Manager to establish further clarity on expectations. A project group would be set up in order to scope out necessary details which was on track.

Councillor Walker queried if enquiries had been received from the Ambulance Service to share services at Pontardawe Fire Station, and questioned if this matter could be looked into. The Director of Operational Support and Improvement advised Members that there were currently 14 co-responder Stations within the Service with a further two to be added in December, in collaboration with WAST and Cariad. Members were informed of the Service's intention to implement co-

responders on all Fire Stations, and discussions would be taking place with WAST and all relevant representative bodies. The Director of Operational Support and Improvement informed Councillor Walker that enquiries would be made with WAST regarding Pontardawe Fire Station sharing services with the Ambulance Service.

Members were provided with an update on the Operational Support and Improvement Directorate response to a query from Councillor Rees-Evans it was confirmed that the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle was unable to fly during the night, and advised Members that the equipment is able to undertake searches of missing individuals, assist with flooding incidents as well as grass fire incidents which would be of great benefit to the Service.

The Director of Operational Support and improvement updated Members that the Service's Sustainability Strategy 2015-20 had been approved by the Executive Leadership Team which would be presented to the Fire Authority in December. It was confirmed that the Service had been successful in obtaining funding from Welsh Government to facilitate the changeover of all premises to LED lighting which would potentially save the Service £50,000 per year. Members were informed that a further bid was in the process of being submitted for electric car charging points to be installed on Fire Stations together with the fitting of solar panels in suitable Service locations. Members received confirmation that work had been taking place with Volvo to develop an alternative range of Fire Appliances which would meet urban, semi urban and rural specifications. A recruitment update was provided to Members which confirmed that the initial sift of the Wholetime campaign had been completed, 938 applications had been received for Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service and 310 of the initial applicants had been successful in progressing to the fitness stage of the recruitment process. It was confirmed a full review of development pathways was underway and also a programme of Incident Commander Development days in order to provide further exposure to operational managers in development.

Members also received an update on a Learning Platform. The Director of Operational Support and Improvement updated Members on the introduction of the Positive Pressure Ventilation training which had been completed in the Swansea Bay area on the 20 October 2015. Training is to be provided to other Commands in the New Year and summer of 2016.

Councillor Curry noted that Powys County Council had also purchased an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle which had a number of benefits, particularly from an architectural purpose and enquired on the cost to the Service. The Director of Operational Support and Improvement highlighted the invest to save bid to change all lighting within Service Premises to LED giving a potential saving of £50k per year. Confirmation was provided that the investment would be paid for within a three-year period. The Director of Operational Support and Improvement also highlighted a further bid being prepared to support the fitting of solar panels to the roofs of suitable Service buildings. Councillor Curry raised concerns regarding the solar panel bid as it was believed this scheme was not as beneficial as it had previously been. In response to questions raised from Councillor Curry with concerns of safety and pollution from the Earlswood Training Centre, should fire

behaviour training be undertaken at this location, the Director of Operational Support and Improvement advised Members that the Service was always looking at ways to prevent and reduce pollution to the environment where possible, and exploring options regarding the facility at Earlswood although indications were that it could prove to be cost prohibitive

Councillor James enquired if grant funding could be provided for the efficiency savings and works at Earlswood Training Centre, to which the Director of Operational Support and Improvement confirmed that no grant funding was available that he had been made aware of, other than the invest to save grant which had been awarded to the Service to change over to LED lighting. Councillor James questioned if funding could be provided by Rescue 365 and it was confirmed that this would be raised with the Directors of Rescue 365 and reported back to Committee Members. In response to an enquiry received from Councillor James if the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle had thermal imaging, the Director of Operational Support and Improvement answered that this was extremely desirable and that the UAV provider was currently sourcing a thermal imaging unit for the vehicle. Councillor James questioned if BA Training would be provided to On-Call Fire Stations which was confirmed by the Director of Operational Support and Improvement and The Corporate Head of Prevention and Protection.

Councillor Rees-Evans stated that should Rescue 365 be having use of the Earlswood site then a contribution towards development costs would need to be received from them or higher payments to be made for the use of the site.

The Head of Corporate Communications and Business Development provided Members with an update on the Service's new e-democracy system which was currently on-going. Members were reassured all necessary training in this regard would be provided, and the implementation of the e-democracy system would provide a potentially paperless environment. Following the new Welsh language standards being introduced at the end of the year, a Service level agreement had been put in place on 05 October 2015 for the sharing of a Welsh Language Officer with South Wales Fire and Rescue Service. It was pleasing to note, the Service Level Agreement in place with Carmarthenshire County Council for a graphic designer had received a positive impact on graphic design work within the Corporate Communications and Business Development Department. Development work had been completed with the Annual Improvement and Strategic Plan. The Committee was told the "Did you know" leaflets with key messages from the Service, had been designed and distributed on the previous Corporate Budget day that had taken place.

The Corporate Head of Prevention and Protection provided Members with an overview on the improvement objectives for Fire prevention and stated that Community Fire Safety continued to promote the use of new technologies in order to target most vulnerable individuals in their homes. Members were informed that the Community Safety team continued to work closely with manufacturers to further develop new technologies for those who presented a high risk within local communities. The Corporate Head of Prevention and Protection stated that the

Service continued to work in partnership with WAST and the Public Health Service in order to make local communities safer. It was reported that the JIGSO project had progressed significantly and once established it was confirmed JIGSO would provide a portal that partners from across the Service area would be able to access to transfer information securely, whilst remaining compliant with the Data Disclosure Agreement. The Corporate Head of Prevention and Protection established that the Service had set up two Community Safety pilot schemes entitled the “Make Every Contact Count” project and the “Safe as Houses” project which were progressing well.

Councillor Hennegan enquired where the name “Safe as Houses” had originated from to which it was confirmed the name had since changed to the “Safe and Well” project. The Executive Support Officer stated to Members that the revised project name had been designed to capture the wellness aspect.

Members received an update from the Corporate Head of Prevention and Protection on improvement objectives on protection, was highlighted that training courses would be sold to other services and businesses. A further priority area within Business Fire Safety was the delivery of fire safety training to operational firefighters. In response to an enquiry made by Councillor James, members were told that the Service continued to review firefighting processes and techniques and that any significant incidents or coroner’s reports received are reviewed and appropriate changes put in place to maintain the safety and wellbeing of all operational personnel.

The Corporate Head of Response referred Members to the Service Delivery Directorate Report on Improvement Objectives for Response. Members were also updated on objective two; It was confirmed that On-Call availability was at 95% with a Service target of reaching 100% availability across all Fire Stations, and that recruitment and retention remains to be difficult in certain areas, Members were reassured that levels of On-Call availability were regularly monitored and scrutinised to enable improvements to be made where necessary, highlighted by the Corporate Head of Response that the Service had been working extremely hard to reduce the risk critical skills gap. In response to a query received from Councillor Curry, regarding the implementation of new technologies. The Director of Service Delivery informed Members that North Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service had utilised the Cobra Cold Cut equipment first and were considered as market leaders, and to his knowledge there were not any Fire and Rescue Services who had not embraced new technology. The Director of Operational Support and Improvement seconded these comments and reassured Members that Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service were always looking to be world leaders in utilising new innovative firefighting technology, but there were benefits to occasionally waiting in terms of cost and additional suppliers for the technology and innovative equipment.

Councillor James questioned if seasonal recruitment could be looked at in order to assist with the recruitment and retention of On-Call personnel. It was confirmed that recruitment of On-Call recruits was a constant process, and on many occasions the Service has ample recruits which unfortunately did not meet the

vacancy requirements of the Fire Stations. In response to Councillor James regarding employers being unable to release employees in times of austerity, Members were informed that the Service undertakes as much engagement as possible and was currently offering training courses as a method of support to employers.

It was noted by Councillor Hennegan that the recent Young Firefighters demonstration had been excellent and very well received. Councillor Rees-Evans stated that the information contained within the reports had been informative and of benefit when reporting back to the general public on Fire Authority matters.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that Members note the report.

7 TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE BUSINESS RISK REGISTER UPDATE REPORT TO SEPTEMBER 2015

The Director of Operational Support and Improvement presented the Business Risk Register Update Report to September 2015 to the Committee.

Members were referred to Appendix A, Business Risk Register and members were informed that risk 003 had been changed from medium ranking to high ranking. The Director of Operational Support and Improvement informed Members that the Williams report regarding the potential changing of constituent boundaries had the potential to adversely affect risk 003, and would therefore be monitored closely.

The Director of Operational Support and Improvement confirmed that no other recorded areas of Risk on the Business Risk Register had been changed during the last review but that they would be carefully monitored.

A query was raised from Councillor James and Councillor Rees- Evans regarding Security and the level of risk recorded on the Business Risk Register Overview, being recorded at risk ranking of Low X Med. Due to recently published security issues that had been experienced with external companies having their ICT systems firewalls infiltrated with viruses and SPAM. The Director of Operational Support and Improvement acknowledged that given these recently reported incidents, the risk register would be revisited and ICT security considered. Members were then provided with an overview of Appendices A-C, which outlined the Risk Assessment Matrix and Business Risk Register Decision Log.

Councillor Curry enquired if all future reports would be printed in colour, to which the Deputy Chief Fire Officer confirmed this would be the case going forward.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that Members note the report.

8 TO CONSIDER ANY OTHER ITEM 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.

The meeting closed at 13:30.