

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



**MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**COFNODION  
CYFARFOD YR AWDURDOD**

a Ystafell Teifi, Canolfan Halliwell, Coleg y Drindod,  
Caerfyrddin  
**Dydd Llun 19 Medi 2005**

**MINUTES  
OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING**

held at The Teifi Suite, Halliwell Centre  
Trinity College, Carmarthen  
**Monday 19 September 2005**

**PRESENOLDEB/ATTENDANCE**

Presennol yn y Cyfarfod/Present at Meeting:

CADEIRYDD/CHAIRMAN:	B J Hall
IS-GADEIRYDD/VICE CHAIRMAN:	C J Crowley
AELODAU/MEMBERS:	Cyng/Cllrs: J S Allen-Mirehouse, J J J Davies, Mrs T Devichand, Mrs J Dudley, T E Evans, D R James, P James, R Lewis, P Llewellyn, C Morgan, G Seabourne, P E Spender, T Theophilus J D A Thompson, M Williams
YMDDIHEURIADAU/APOLOGIES:	Cyng/ Cllrs:, F M Jones, D C Prothero, D R Price, C Waller,

## **1 DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

None were declared.

## **2 PERSONAL MATTERS/CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman informed Members of the recent tragic family bereavements suffered by Councillor Prothero and also that he was currently in hospital following a period of ill health. Members expressed their sympathy and good wishes to Councillor Prothero and his family during this difficult time. Sympathy was also expressed to Mr H Morse on the recent passing of his brother.

## **3 TO RECEIVE AND CONFIRM AS A TRUE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE FIRE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>th</sup> JULY 2005**

The minutes of the Fire Authority meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2005 were received and approved as a true record

## **4 TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS ARISING**

### **Item 8 – To receive a Report on the Provision of a Sprinkler System at an Arson Vulnerable School**

Councillor C Morgan asked if progress had been made since the discussion at the last meeting on the provision of sprinkler systems in schools. The Chief Fire Officer responded that letters had been sent to the Chief Executives of the six Unitary Authorities laying down the advantages of providing sprinkler systems in schools as an integral part of the initial design. The initiative had seen success in some parts of the service area, most notably Neath Port Talbot where a new special school in Neath was to be provided with such a system. Members were unanimous in the opinion that the Fire and Rescue Authority had responsibility to take greater steps in order to forward the issue and agreed that discussions should take place with the Welsh Assembly Government.

### **RESOLUTION**

*It was RESOLVED that*

- i) The provision of sprinkler systems in schools be discussed at the next meeting with the Minister**
- ii) A briefing note be prepared for Members to assist them in further discussions within their own Unitary Authority**

## **5 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES**

The minutes of the following Committee Meetings were received and noted:

- i) The Standards Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2005
- ii) The Resources Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2005
- iii) The Performance and Policy Review Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2005

## **6 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2004-2005**

The Treasurer presented the Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2004 - 2005 for the formal approval by Members, which was required by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2005.

It was noted that the Wales Audit Office had again requested, in accordance with auditing standards, formal representations on a number of matters connected with the financial accounts. The Audit Manager had asked that the Fire Authority formally acknowledge both the request and the Treasurer's reply, which had been attached for Members' information.

### **RESOLUTION**

***It was RESOLVED that***

- 1. The Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2004-2005 be approved***
- 2. The letter from the Wales Audit Office and the Treasurer's reply concerning representations on matters connected with the financial accounts be approved***

## **7 TO RECEIVE THE 2005/06 PERFORMANCE PLAN AND TO CONSIDER THE INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE WALES AUDIT OFFICE INSPECTION PROCESS**

Members were aware that the responsibility for Fire Policy in Wales had been transferred to the Welsh Assembly Government in November 2004. This had resulted in substantial changes in the way in which the Service's Performance Planning and Reporting was managed both at a National and at a local level. One of the major changes had been the audit review process which the Authority had been subject to over recent years, namely Best Value legislation which had emanated from the Local Government Act 1999. One of the requirements of previous Best Value legislation had been for the Authority to publish an Annual Best Value Performance & Business Plan, by the 30<sup>th</sup> June each year. Following the devolvement of Fire Policy, the requirement for the Authority to comply with Best Value Legislation and consequently, the requirement to publish a Performance & Business Plan for 2005/06 had been removed.

However, in order to ensure that transparency was maintained with audit, until the new formal Wales Programme for Improvement audit process was introduced the Service considered it prudent to publish a Performance Plan for 2005/06 despite their being no legal requirement to do so.

Consideration was given to a briefing paper which give the background to the interim arrangements for performance planning and the Wales Audit Office inspection process for 2005 – 2006. The information supplemented that which had been taken to the Authority's Policy and Performance Review Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2005 where it had been reported that a draft Performance Plan for 2005/2006 would be presented at today's meeting of the full Authority. It was noted that the attached draft Performance Plan for 2005/06 had been debated by the Service's Policy & Performance Board on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2005 and approved for submission to Members. It was noted that in order to meet the interim Wales Audit Office guidelines, the Performance Plan for 2005/06 had to be published by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2005

## **RESOLUTION**

*It was RESOLVED that*

- 1) The interim arrangements for Performance Planning and Wales Audit Office inspection for 2005/06 be noted**
- 2) The Performance Plan for 2005/2006 be approved for publication on the Service's website by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2005.**

## **8 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO THE AUTHORITY'S STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

The Clerk informed Members that the Authority's Standards Committee was made up of three Authority Members and four independent Members. Under the relevant Regulations, Authority Members' term of office should be no more than 4 years, although such members could be reappointed for one further consecutive term. For independent members the Regulations provided that appointments should be not less than 4 years nor more than 6 years and that they could not serve more than one term of office.

It was noted that both independent and Authority members had initially been appointed for a 4 year term up to the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2005. Authority members had been appointed at the Annual General Meeting with Councillors Glyn Seabourne and Paul James appointed to serve their first term up to 7<sup>th</sup> July 2008 and Councillor Jim Davies having been appointed for a second term to 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

Earlier this year Members and Officers of the Authority had attended an all Wales Standards Committee Conference at Aberystwyth. One of the issues raised at the Conference which was currently being examined by the Welsh Assembly Government, was the difficulty Authorities had in attracting individuals to apply as independent members and losing the expertise gained by such individuals within a relatively short time frame. It was hoped that revised Regulations would be issued by the WAG, which would enable independent members to be appointed for a further consecutive term. A recent Consultation document from WAG proposed that such an amendment be made to the existing Regulations but it was unlikely however that such regulations, if enacted, would be made before the end of the current year.

In the interim therefore, pending the possible enactment of revised Regulations governing Standards Committee membership, it was considered prudent for the Authority, under the current regulations, to extend the current term of office of the four independent members from 4 years to 6 years i.e. to the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2007. Thereafter, irrespective of whether amending regulations regarding membership had been issued, future appointments of independent members should be made on a staggered basis to maintain a degree of continuity and expertise.

## **RESOLUTION**

*It was RESOLVED that*

- 1) The Authority extend the current term of appointment of the four independent members on the Standards Committee by two years to the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2007.**
- 2) Future appointment of independent members to the Standards Committee be made on a staggered basis to maintain a degree of continuity and expertise**

### **9 TO RECEIVE A REPORT OF COUNCILLORS T E EVANS AND D C PROTHERO ON THEIR ATTENDANCE AT THE EMERGENCY PLANNING CONFERENCE HELD IN HARROGATE ON 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2005**

A report was received from Councillors T E Evans and D C Prothero on their attendance at the Emergency Planning Conference held in Harrogate on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2005 in which it was noted that the overall content of the Conference had little direct relevance to members of the Fire Authority. The large proportion of the Conference had related to technical aspects of emergency planning rather than to strategy or policy and whilst future Emergency Planning Conferences could offer limited benefit to warrant attendance by an Officer of the Service, it was recommended that the Authority considered removing it from the list of standing conferences currently attended by members.

## **RESOLUTION**

*It was RESOLVED that*

***The Emergency Planning Annual Conference be no longer included as a Standing Conference for Members but that Officers continue to attend at the discretion of the CFO***

### **10 TO RECEIVE ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

The following items were received for information:

1. Report on Community Risk Reduction
2. Service Delivery Reports from the County Commands
3. Delay to the Control Room Relocation