

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



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

**COFNODION CYFARFOD Y PWYLLGOR  
ADOLYGU PERFFORMIAD A PHOLISI  
MINUTES OF THE PERFORMANCE AND  
POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**DYDD LLUN, 19 CHWEFROR 2007  
MONDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2007**

**PENCADLYS Y GWASANAETH TÂN  
HEOL LLWYN PISGWYDD, CAERFYRDDIN  
FIRE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS,  
LIME GROVE AVENUE, CARMARTHEN**

**PRESENOLDEB/ATTENDANCE**

Presennol yn y Cyfarfod/Present at Meeting:

IS-GADEIRYDD/VICE CHAIRMAN: P James

AELODAU/MEMBERS: Cyng/Cllrs: JJJ Davies, D R James,  
C Morgan, J D A Thompson,  
C Waller

YMDDIHEURIADAU/APOLOGIES Mrs F M Jones, D C Prothero,  
Mrs P Spender

**1. DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF ANY PERSONAL INTEREST**

None were declared

**2. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2006**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2006 were received and approved as a true record.

**3. TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION ON THE CORVU PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

The Performance Management Officer, Bob Rees, presented an update on the Service CORVU System to Members.

It was noted that the CORVU system was a powerful management tool which allowed personnel to make fully and properly informed decisions, and to collectively measure Service performance effectively.

The Chair thanked the Performance Management Officer for attending the meeting, and was pleased to note the progress that had been made in implementing the CORVU system.

**4. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT, FOR THE REPORTING QUARTER APRIL – DECEMBER 2006**

Members considered the BVPI Corporate Health and Service delivery indicators and associated Exception Report for April to December 2006 which formed part of the Authority's Performance Management reporting framework.

Committee were pleased to note that indicators in respect of accidental dwelling fires (BV 142iii; 143i & ii and 208), where Home Fire Safety Audit campaigns had been undertaken, were continuing to exceed the challenging targets set, evidencing the success of such activity.

With reference to false alarms caused by automatic fire detection apparatus (BV 149) the indicators associated with attendance at false alarms were continuing to show disappointing results. Performance was off target for the number of calls attended and for repeat attendances at premises. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer reported that County Commanders had been provided with information on the number and frequency of false alarm attendances and were involved in the detail of new reports in order to effectively target repeat offenders in particular within their command area. There was an overall slight reduction in attendance for November and December but this would need to be improved on if the Service target was to be achieved.

## RESOLUTION

*It was RESOLVED that*

*The report be received and accepted*

### 5. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER A REPORT ON FIRE AND RESCUE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK (WALES) 2005 (REVISIONS) ORDER 2007 AND INTERVENTION PROTOCOL

The Authority had recently received correspondence from the Welsh Assembly Government, which, under a covering letter from Joanna Jordan, Head of Community Safety Division, set out, in draft, the Welsh Assembly Government's (WAG) intended revisions to the National Framework along with a draft intervention protocol, made under section 23 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.

The letter invited comments on both documents with a response date by 2 March 2007. Draft responses to both documents had been prepared for consideration by Members and it was noted that a letter had already been sent to WAG with regard to the short four week consultation period.

Members were informed that the Fire and Rescue National Framework for Wales had been written by virtue of section 21 of the FRS Act 2004 and it was intended to set out the priorities and objectives for Fire & Rescue Services in Wales in connection with the discharge of its duties. It was a pre-requisite of the 2004 Act that the WAG kept the terms of the Framework under review and should any revisions be proposed, then each Fire and Rescue Authority must be consulted. The Fire & Rescue Authority must have regard to the Framework in carrying out its duties, therefore, the implications for this consultation exercise impinged in all areas.

Section 22 of the FRS Act 2004, allowed for intervention by the Secretary of State for the purpose of ensuring the FRA acted in accordance with the Framework. In order to make an intervention under this legislation, the WAG must prepare a protocol in the first instance that must be consulted upon.

Again, the implications for this piece of work impinged upon all areas of the Authority's undertakings.

Members were of the view that the National Framework document was not as in-depth a report as was originally anticipated and that the Fire Service had hoped to have had greater input into its content. Councillor Thompson emphasised the importance of the Framework document and strongly expressed the view that the three Welsh Fire Authorities should provide a united and co-ordinated response enlisting the support of the Welsh Local Government Association.

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer reported that legal advice had been sought in regard to the Intervention Protocol and that a response was awaited, to be included in the Authority's draft response as appropriate.

## RESOLUTION

***It was RESOLVED that***

- i) The draft response be approved subject to the inclusion of legal advice currently awaited.***
- ii) The response to be co-ordinated with that of the other Welsh Fire Authorities and the WLGA***
- iii) The response to receive final ratification from the Chair, Vice Chair and the Leaders of the Political Groups.***

## **6. TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON OPERATIONAL ASSURANCE SELF ASSESSMENT**

Temporary Group Manager Craig Thomas presented a report on the Operational Assurance of service delivery which was a key aspect of the Wales Programme of Improvement for Fire and Rescue Authorities.

It was noted that Operational Assurance built on the principle of self assessment with each Fire and Rescue Authority using the interim toolkit issued with W-FRSC (06)37.

The self assessment process was then followed by a peer assessment, utilising officers from the other two Welsh Fire and Rescue Services.

The Service's self assessment dealt with the five Key Lines of Enquiry of risk analysis, prevention and protection, operational preparedness, call management and incident support, and emergency response.

It was reported that owing to time constraints imposed by the Welsh Assembly Government, it had not been possible to obtain prior approval from the Authority before submission of the Service's self assessment to the Welsh Assembly Government on the 12<sup>th</sup> January.

The peer assessment for Mid and West Wales Service would commence on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2007.

## **RESOLUTION**

***It was RESOLVED that***

***The report be noted and approved***

## **7. TO RECEIVE ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **To consider a letter from the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration**

The Chief Fire Officer reported that the Chair and Vice Chair together with Officers had recently met with Mrs Hart who had requested that the Authority again defer the implementation of crewing changes at Haverfordwest Fire Station as part of the Risk Reduction Plan. In accordance with views previously expressed by Members, Mrs Hart was informed that the Authority were no

longer able to defer this proposal as it was one of the key factors in funding the Authority's Community Fire Safety Programme utilising savings made from the RRP which included the change from whole time to day time crewing arrangements at Haverfordwest.

As a result Mrs Hart wrote to the Authority with reference to the 'Wales a Safer Country' initiative which set out proposals for the RRP, indicating that the FSEC was the Assembly Governments preferred modelling tool, and requested that the three Welsh Fire Authorities undertook a 'healthcheck' of the operation of FSEC focusing on data quality, process and outputs. The Chief Fire Officer indicated that basically Mrs Hart was seeking independent assurances that the decisions made by the Authority were the correct ones in order to raise levels of public confidence in these decisions.

Although Members were concerned that it appeared that their decisions were being scrutinised and undermined, they did not wish to cause more conflict by refusing to undertake the healthcheck, the cost for which, it was noted, would be bourn by the Welsh Assembly Government. They considered that a decision of this importance would be better undertaken by all Authority members.

## **RESOLUTION**

***It was RESOLVED that***

***In view of the potential implications in undertaking the healthcheck, it was agreed to call a Special Meeting of the Fire Authority on 12<sup>th</sup> March in order to discuss the proposal further.***