

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
EXECUTIVE PANEL

Minutes of the **Executive Panel** of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority held on Monday 15 December 2025, virtually via Zoom. Meeting commenced at 14.00hrs.

Councillor

Cllr Dylan Rees (Chair)
Cllr Mark Young (Deputy Chair)
Cllr Carol Beard
Cllr Alan Hughes
Cllr John Ifan Jones
Cllr Gareth A Roberts
Cllr Rondo Roberts
Cllr Paul Rogers
Cllr Gareth Williams

Representing

Anglesey County Council
Denbighshire County Council
Conwy County Borough Council
Denbighshire County Council
Anglesey County Council
Gwynedd County Council
Wrexham County Council
Wrexham County Council
Gwynedd County Council

Also present:

Dawn Docx	Chief Fire Officer
Helen MacArthur	Assistant Chief Fire Officer
Justin Evans	Assistant Chief Fire Officer
Anthony Jones	Assistant Chief Fire Officer
Mike Plant	Head of Performance, Planning and Transformation
Paul Kay	Head of Prevention and Protection
Llinos Evans	Head of Corporate Communications
Dafydd Edwards	Treasurer
Gareth Owens	Clerk and Monitoring Officer
Matthew Powell	Deputy Clerk and Monitoring Officer
Heledd Davies	Atebol - Translator
Lisa Allington	Executive Assistant

1.0 APOLOGIES

Name

Cllr Charlie McCoubrey
Cllr Paul Cunningham
Cllr Antony Wren

Representing

Conwy County Borough Council
Flintshire County Council
Flintshire County Council

ABSENT

Name

Cllr Chris Hughes
Cllr Dale Selvester

Representing

Conwy County Borough Council
Flintshire County Council

2.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3.0 NOTICE OF URGENT MATTERS

3.1 There were no notices of urgent matters.

4.0 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2025

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2025 were submitted for approval. A proposal was made that they were a true and accurate record of proceedings. This was seconded and passed with all in favour.

4.2 It was confirmed that an online meeting had been attended with the Cabinet Secretary on the morning of 15 December and she would be making a statement in the Senedd this week in relation to the changes that will be made around governance of fire and rescue authorities (FRAs).

4.3 In relation to the withdrawal of the arson reduction grant, this would be made at the next Social Partnership Forum meeting as the Cabinet Secretary had been absent from the last one.

4.4 **RESOLVED to:**

i) approve the minutes as a true and correct record of the meeting held.

5.0 PERFORMANCE MONITORING, APRIL 2025 – SEPTEMBER 2025

5.1 AM Mike Plant presented the Performance Monitoring, April 2025 – September 2025 report which provided Members with an update on performance for the period 1 April 2025 – 30 September 2025 (quarter one and two of financial year 2025/26). It was noted that the performance measures reflected the five key principles outlined in the Community Risk Management Implementation Plan (CRMIP) for the 2025/26 financial-year and include commentary on emerging trends and future actions.

5.2 A Member asked if there were any figures on visits to HMP Berwyn over the last quarter. AM Paul Kay advised that there had been an increase in the number of incidents between May and July 2025; however, collaborative work with the prison had recently seen the introduction of a tamper proof vape for inmates resulting in a significant reduction in incidents. Both a desktop simulation in a non-cell area and a live exercise were planned over the next few months and Members were welcome to observe those should they wish.

- 5.3 A Member asked if Wrexham's second engine was still being moved to Corwen daily to increase availability, and whether this had impacted on the ability to send two engines to HMP Berwyn when a call was received in line with the predetermined attendance (PDA) procedure. It was confirmed that as overall availability throughout the day had improved because of the Nucleus Crewing pilot, the second Wrexham engine was not moved to Corwen as regularly as it had been prior to the implementation of the pilot in September. Confirmed figures around this would be made available following the first quarterly review of the pilot early in the new year.
- 5.4 The Chair asked if the statistics for high priority safe and well checks were improving and whether they could be re-categorised to very high, and high. AM Kay responded that the categorisation of safe and well checks was appropriately aligned with the NFCC Prevention Strategy and that a proportion of the high-risk referrals were carried out by operational crews.
- 5.5 A Member asked if the Service had the capacity and resource to deal with the increase in wildfire and severe weather incidents. AM Plant responded that risk reviews were taking place around this and the Strategic Risk Register amended as required; however, there remained some challenges around capacity following the removal of the Arson Reduction Grant.
- 5.6 CFO Docx further noted that wildfires and severe weather requirements would continue to create a cost pressure for the Service, and a wildfire training session was planned to take place prior to the full Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority) meeting in January 2026.
- 5.7 The increase in incidents of fires around narrow-gauge railways was noted, and a discussion was held around this.
- 5.8 It was asked how many call outs were for the application of first aid due to poor availability of ambulances, and CFO Docx responded that whilst crews were trained in immediate medical care, they were not undertaking the work of ambulance crews.

5.9 **RESOLVED to:**

- i) Note the content of the Performance Monitoring Report.**

6.0 STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 ACFO Anthony Jones presented to Members the Strategic Risk Management paper which gave an update in relation to the Risk Appetite Statement and an overview of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority's (the Authority) Strategic Risk Register.

6.2 It was asked if officers were able to provide reassurance to Members that the relevant investments and security were in place to protect the Service from cyber risks. ACFO MacArthur confirmed that the Service's risk appetite was minimal in relation to cyber threats and that robust arrangements were in place to mitigate this area. Recognised standards were in place and external assurance was provided via the internal auditors.

6.3 The Treasurer noted that minimal meant that the most cautious approach was being adopted by the Service in relation to cyber risks.

6.4 **RESOLVED to:**

- i) Note the Strategic Risk Register; and**
- ii) review and approve the risk appetite in paras 14-21 of the paper.**

7.0 BUDGET SETTING 2026/27

7.1 Elgan Roberts, Head of Finance, provided Members with an update on the financial planning assessment to set a balanced budget for 2026/27 and to seek endorsement to communicate the indicative levy to constituent local authorities.

7.2 It was noted that Members of the Audit Committee had scrutinised the budget setting process in its meeting of 15 December and had endorsed all recommendations.

7.3 Thanks were given to the members of the Budget Scrutiny working Group, the Finance Department and budget holders for their engagement and hard work in setting the budget.

7.4 The Treasurer confirmed that reserves were only utilised for one-off items of expenditure and that local authority finance officers had been kept informed throughout the budget setting process. He concluded that he considered the increase in the levy to be reasonable and appropriate.

7.5 **RESOLVED to:**

- i) Note the findings of the Budget Scrutiny Working Group, including the planning assumptions being used to develop the revenue budget for 2026/27;**
- ii) Note the current financial planning assessment of a revenue budget requirement of £54.375m and capital budget of £6.661m for 2026/27;**
- iii) Note the proposal to utilise £0.271m of reserves for 2026/27; and**
- iv) Endorse the communication of the draft financial levy of £54.104m from the constituent local authorities.**

8.0 CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES IN WALES

8.1 ACFO Evans delivered the Consultation on the Draft National Framework for Fire and Rescue Services in Wales and sought endorsement of the proposed response from North Wales Fire and Rescue Service (the Service).

8.2 RESOLVED to:

- i) Note the publication of the draft National Framework for Fire and Rescue Services in Wales;**
- ii) Endorse the proposed Service response to the consultation, as set out in Appendix 1; and**
- iii) Authorise the submission of the response to Welsh Government by the consultation deadline of 17 December 2025.**

9.0 URGENT MATTERS

9.1 There were no urgent matters to discuss.

Meeting closed: 15:00 hrs