

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
EXECUTIVE PANEL

Minutes of the **Executive Panel** of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority held on Monday 19 June 2023 at St Asaph Fire and Rescue Headquarters and virtually via Zoom. Meeting commenced at 14.00hrs.

Councillor

Cllr Dylan Rees (Chair)
Cllr Paul Cunningham (Deputy Chair)
Cllr Alan Hughes
Cllr Chris Hughes
Cllr Gareth Sandilands
Cllr Carol Beard
Cllr Chrissy Gee
Cllr Dale Selvester

Representing

Ynys Môn County Council
Flintshire County Council
Denbighshire County Council
Conwy County Borough Council
Denbighshire County Council
Conwy County Borough Council
Flintshire County Borough Council
Flintshire County Council

Also present:

Dawn Docx
Stewart Forshaw
Stuart Millington
Helen MacArthur
Dafydd Edwards
Tracey Williams
Gareth Owens
George Jones
Lisa Allington

Chief Fire Officer
Deputy Chief Fire Officer
Assistant Chief Fire Officer
Assistant Chief Fire Officer
Treasurer
Head of Corporate Communications
Clerk and Monitoring Officer
Atebol - Translator
Executive Assistant

1 APOLOGIES

Councillor

Cllr Gareth A Roberts
Cllr Rondo Roberts
Cllr Rob Triggs

Representing

Gwynedd County Council
Wrexham County Council
Gwynedd Council

ABSENT

Councillor

Cllr Paul Rogers

Representing

Wrexham County Council

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 There were no declarations of interest to record.

3 NOTICE OF URGENT MATTERS

3.1 There was no notice of urgent matters.

4 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 MARCH 2022

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2023 were submitted for approval.

4.2 **RESOLVED to:**

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

5 MATTERS ARISING

5.1 There were no matters arising.

6. PERFORMANCE MONITORING: APR 2022 – MAR 2023

6.1 DCFO Forshaw presented the Performance Monitoring: Apr 2022 – Mar 2023 paper which aimed to provide information about incident activity during the 2022/23 financial year; performance in relation to North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority's (the Authority) improvement and well-being objectives; and other notable incident activity.

6.2 It was noted that there had been no accidental dwelling fire related deaths during 2022/23 and agreed that this was to be celebrated.

6.3 One Member asked for information in relation to partnership working in order to reduce wildfire incidents. ACFO Millington confirmed that there was a large involvement by partners in preventing Wildfires, particularly National Resources Wales (NRW). It was felt that this not only created a shared ownership of the issue but enabled a sharing of resources such as the all-Wales helicopter.

6.4 DCFO Forshaw confirmed that the methods of training for fighting wildfires had also evolved making them more efficient.

6.5 **RESOLVED to:**

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

7. EMERGENCY COVER REVIEW UPDATE

7.1 AM Anthony Jones presented the Emergency Cover Review Update which provided Members with an update on the progress and activities of the Emergency Cover Review since the overview report presented on 20 March 2023.

7.2 Members were asked to note that the working group meeting on 22 June 2023 to discuss the potential options arising from the Emergency Cover Review had been opened up to all Members, and would be held on a hybrid basis.

7.3 It was stressed that no decisions to implement changes would be required at this pre-consultation stage.

7.4 **RESOLVED to:**

i) Note the contents of this report and the progress made by the Emergency Cover Working Group.

8. REVIEW INTO AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARMS

8.1 ACFO Millington presented the paper on the Review into Automatic Fire Alarms, which aimed to provide Members with an overview of the findings following a recent audit of response to false fire alarms that was undertaken by Audit Wales.

8.2 Members were asked to note that any financial savings referred to in this report related to opportunity savings rather than cashable savings.

8.3 **RESOLVED to:**

i) note the content of the Audit Wales False Fire Alarms reduction report.

9. RISK REGISTER

9.1 DCFO Forshaw presented the Risk Register paper which summarised the content of the Authority's strategic risk register in accordance with the Strategic Risk Management Policy.

9.2 It was noted that whilst the content of the Risk Register was reported to the Authority twice-yearly, the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority reviewed the whole Strategic Risk Register on a more regular basis.

9.3 **RESOLVED to:**

i) note the identified strategic risks that are facing the Authority, and the mitigating actions.

10 ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY 2023-2030

10.1 ACFO Millington presented the Environmental Strategy 2023-2030 which aimed to consolidate North Wales Fire and Rescue Service's (the Service) existing legal and policy commitments relating to environmental management, and set out how the Service proposed to meet them.

10.2 It was asked what additional resources would be required in order to deliver the commitments within the Environmental Strategy, and ACFO Millington responded that the costs were currently being worked through. The proposals would be looked at in a proportional manner which enabled the required actions to be carried out in the most efficient and effective manner possible. Any costs would be brought to the Authority for discussion and ratification.

10.3 The appointment of Tim Christensen as the Service's Environment and Climate Change Manager had enabled exponential progress in this area as he had brought with him a wealth of expertise.

10.4 **RESOLVED to:**

- i) **note the content of the report; and**
- ii) **endorse the proposed Environmental Strategy for the period 2023-2030 for approval at the Full Authority meeting on 17 July.**

11 WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON REMEDYING AGE DISCRIMINATION IN FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION SCHEME WALES

11.1 ACFO MacArthur presented the paper on the Welsh Government's Consultation on Remedying Age Discrimination in Firefighters' Pension Scheme Wales. This paper intended to provide an update to Members on the proposals for remedy in the Firefighters' Pension Scheme in Wales to address the age discrimination, and set out the proposed responses to the consultation on behalf of the Authority.

11.2 Members' attention was drawn to questions 2, 4, 11 to 13 inclusive and 25, and the Service's response to those questions.

11.3 It was noted that this was a very complex area and thanks were given to ACFO MacArthur and her team for this piece of work.

11.4 **RESOLVED to:**

- i) **note the background to the consultation; and**
- (ii) **approve the consultation response due by the 23 June 2023.**

12 URGENT MATTERS

12.1 There were no urgent matters to raise.

Thanks were given to Members for their attendance.

Meeting closed: 14:50 hrs