

**NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY  
EXECUTIVE PANEL**

Minutes of the Executive Panel Meeting of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority held on 13 May 2019 at Fire and Rescue Headquarters, St Asaph. Meeting commenced at 10am.

PRESENT

Councillors:

M Ll Davies (Chair)	Denbighshire County Council
M Bateman	Flintshire County Council
B Blakeley	Denbighshire County Council
A Davies	Denbighshire County Council
V Gay	Flintshire County Council
R Griffiths	Anglesey County Council
J B Hughes	Gwynedd Council
P R Lewis	Conwy County Borough Council
R Roberts	Wrexham County Borough Council
G G Williams	Gwynedd Council

ALSO PRESENT:

S A Smith (Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive); G Owens (Deputy Clerk); S Morris and H MacArthur (Assistant Chief Officers); R Fairhead and K Roberts (Assistant Chief Fire Officers); T Williams (Corporate Communications Manager); D Davies (Secretariat/Minute Taker).

1. APOLOGIES

Councillors:

M Dixon	Wrexham County Borough Council
E W Jones	Anglesey County Council
R E Parry	Conwy County Borough Council
A Tansley	Conwy County Borough Council

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

2.1 None.

3. NOTICE OF URGENT MATTERS

3.1 There were no urgent matters.

#### 4 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2019

4.1 The minutes of the last meeting were submitted for approval.

4.2 **RESOLVED to approve the minutes as a true and correct record.**

#### 5 MATTERS ARISING

5.1 There were no matters arising.

#### 6 GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR FRAs IN WALES

6.1 The Chief Fire Officer provided a verbal update on the latest position in respect of proposed changes to the finance and governance arrangements of fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) in Wales as signalled in the Welsh Government's White Paper "Reform of Fire and Rescue Authorities in Wales", published in November 2018.

6.2 Members were reminded that the consultation period came to an end on 5 February 2019. At a meeting with the Minister Julie James AM it was explained that following analysis the consultation responses would be presented to the Welsh Government Cabinet for consideration.

6.3 **RESOLVED to note the information provided.**

#### 7 IMPROVEMENT AND WELL-BEING PLAN 2020/21

7.1 ACO Morris introduced the report which summarised the progress made by the Planning Working Group in developing North Wales FRA's improvement and well-being objectives for 2020/21. Members were asked to recommend to the FRA a draft consultation proposal based on developing a comprehensive Environmental Strategy for adoption by the FRA from April 2020.

7.2 **RESOLVED to recommend to the FRA at its June meeting a draft consultation proposal based on developing a comprehensive Environmental Strategy for adoption by the FRA from April 2020.**

#### 8 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION STRATEGY TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF NWFRA'S IMPROVEMENT AND WELL-BEING PLAN 2020/21

8.1 ACO Morris presented the report which outlined proposals for the Authority's 2019 consultation with the public and other stakeholders as part of the process of developing its Improvement and Wellbeing Plan 2020/21.

- 8.2 The Authority is required to publish improvement objectives and to have involved the public and other stakeholders in the process of developing those objectives. It was noted that the strategy is aimed at consulting publicly between July and October 2019 and will include highlighting the work of North Wales Fire and Rescue Service and explaining the rationale for developing a new Environmental Strategy in the context of the Service's operational effectiveness and corporate obligations.
- 8.3 Members were keen to include town and community councils more, if possible, in this year's consultation.
- 8.4 **RESOLVED to endorse the public engagement and consultation strategy as outlined in the report for delivery between July and October 2019.**

## 9 STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT

- 9.1 ACO Morris presented the report which summarised the content of the Authority's strategic risk register in accordance with the Strategic Risk Management Policy.
- 9.2 The report summarised the risks contained in the latest version of the confidential register, which the Chair and Deputy Chair confirmed they had viewed on 8 May 2019.
- 9.3 **RESOLVED to note the identified strategic risks that are facing the Authority.**

## 10 EMERGENCY SERVICES MOBILE COMMUNICATION PROGRAMME

- 10.1 ACFO Fairhead provided a verbal update on the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme.
- 10.2 Members were reminded that the current national radio and data communication system, Airwave, used by the emergency services in the UK was due to end in December 2019. A national replacement project known as the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP) has been established by Her Majesty's Government and is being led by the Home Office to deliver a replacement service.
- 10.3 Members noted the numerous issues and risks that are involved with the national project and that the timescale for implementing a new contract has been delayed significantly. It was agreed that Members will be kept informed of any developments.
- 10.4 **RESOLVED to note the information provided.**

## 11 BREXIT

- 11.1 ACFO Fairhead provided a verbal update on actions being taken by the Service to prepare for the UK's withdrawal from the European Union (EU).
- 11.2 It was noted that from December until March the Service had been involved with internal and external preparations for the possibility of the UK leaving the EU without a deal. This had included working as part of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF), and although meetings for this purpose had been suspended for the time being, the LRF could be reconvened if necessary.
- 11.3 **RESOLVED to note the information provided.**

## PART II

## 12 FIREFIGHTERS' PAY NEGOTIATIONS

- 12.1 The Chief Fire Officer briefed Members on the latest situation regarding national negotiations on firefighters' pay and conditions.