

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 September 2025, virtually via Zoom. Meeting commenced at 14.00hrs.

Councillor

Cllr Dylan Rees (Chair)
Cllr Carol Beard
Cllr Sharon Doleman
Cllr Chris Hughes
Cllr John Ifan Jones
Cllr Gareth A Roberts
Cllr Paul Rogers (arrived 14:09)
Cllr Gareth Williams
Cllr Antony Wren

Representing

Anglesey County Council
Conwy County Borough Council
Conwy County Council
Conwy County Borough Council
Anglesey County Council
Gwynedd County Council
Wrexham County Council
Gwynedd County Council
Flintshire County Council

Also present:

Dawn Docx
Helen MacArthur
Justin Evans
Anthony Jones
Mike Plant

Bethan Millington
Dafydd Edwards
Matthew Powell
Steve Morris
Heledd Davies
Lisa Allington

Chief Fire Officer
Assistant Chief Fire Officer
Assistant Chief Fire Officer
Assistant Chief Fire Officer
Head of Performance, Planning and Transformation
Deputy Head of Corporate Communications
Treasurer
Deputy Clerk and Monitoring Officer
Head of ICT
Atebol - Translator
Executive Assistant

1.0 APOLOGIES

Name

Cllr Rondo Roberts
Cllr Mark Young (Deputy Chair)
Gareth Owens

Representing

Wrexham County Council
Denbighshire County Council
Clerk and Monitoring Officer

ABSENT

Name

Cllr Paul Cunningham
Cllr Alan Hughes
Cllr Dale Selvester

Representing

Flintshire County Council
Denbighshire County 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 16 JUNE 2025

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 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 RESOLVED to:

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

5.0 MATTERS ARISING

5.1 Item 7 of the previous minutes relating to the Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor's report referred to an action plan and it was asked if an update against that action plan could be given.

5.2 ACFO JE advised that progress against the recommendations was being made around equipment and budget provision had been put in place for future appliances to be retro fitted with flow meters. A working group to address the recommendations and carry out a gap analysis had been set up to inform future policy changes and training requirements.

6.0 WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION REGARDING THE GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES IN WALES

6.1 CFO Docx presented the paper on the Welsh Government consultation regarding the governance arrangements for fire and rescue services in Wales, the purpose of which was to bring to Members' attention the publication of a public consultation around future Governance Arrangements for Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) in Wales.

6.2 It was noted that the paper provided to Members had been written prior to the release of the consultation.

6.3 Members were advised that there would be two Member seminars facilitated to discuss the consultation and the Authority's response to the same and these would be an in-person seminar on 29 September and a virtual seminar on 2 October. Invites would follow in due course.

6.4 The CFO confirmed that there was no provision in this consultation for a pan-Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, or for a change to the way in which the Authority was funded as these would both require changes to primary legislation which could not be done prior to the next Senedd election.

6.5 RESOLVED to:

- i) Note the content of the consultation; and**
- ii) Agree to attend a workshop to scrutinise the proposals and submit a response drafted on behalf of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority), setting out Members' views regarding the proposals.**

7.0 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT 2024/25

7.1 ACFO Anthony Jones presented to Members the Annual Performance Assessment for 2024/25.

7.2 A Member noted their concern in relation to the increase in wildfires over the last three years, the resources that had to be allocated to these, and the financial impact that might have on the figures for the next financial year.

7.3 ACFO Jones confirmed that that concern was shared by officers and this was a trend that could be seen across Wales, along with a rise in flooding. He further confirmed that there were dedicated officers, vehicles and PPE allocated specifically to wildfires to improve the Service's response to them and that they were monitored very closely.

7.4 The CFO added that an all-Wales approach had been put in place to tackle the issue of wildfires, but that this had become a bigger issue over the years. Smaller grass fires might also create issues as if they were not tackled quickly enough, they could easily turn into wildfires. This highlighted the importance of providing a rural fire service which the Emergency Cover Review/Collective Agreement had now begun to address.

7.5 The Chair noted that wildfires had recently been reported on nationally, and that it had been highlighted that South Wales Fire and Rescue Service recorded their data in a different way and asked that officers look into this in more detail. ACFO Evans confirmed that Prevention and Protection were already investigating this.

- 7.6 A Member asked what work was taking place with partner agencies to prevent wildfires and therefore reduce the number of incidents, and ACFO Evans confirmed that the Service continued to work closely with the Local Resilience Forum (the LRF) and in collaboration with other Welsh Emergency Services from a prevention perspective.
- 7.7 The CFO noted that the withdrawal of the Arson Reduction grant had limited the prevention work that could be carried out. The Chair confirmed that he would raise this at the next Social Partnership Forum meeting.
- 7.8 It was asked what the rise in Health and Safety incidents could be attributed to, and ACFO Jones confirmed that these related in the main to the Service's red fleet and was generally due to low-speed parking and manoeuvring incidents resulting in minor damage.
- 7.9 The Chair highlighted that the Service had a much lower percentage of smoke alarms not fitted than the other Welsh FRS's and congratulated the prevention team for the work carried out during safe and well checks.

7.10 RESOLVED to:

- i) Note and endorse the contents of the Annual Performance Assessment for the period 2024/25 for approval by the Authority.**

8.0 PERFORMANCE MONITORING, 1 APRIL 2025 – 30 JUNE 2025

- 8.1 AM Mike Plant advised Members that the purpose of this report was to provide an update on performance for the period 1 April 2025 – 30 June 2025 (quarter 1 2025/26). It was clarified 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 included commentary on emerging trends and future actions.
- 8.2 Thanks were given to all involved in preserving life and property at the recent wildfire at Mynydd Bodafon, a serious incident which had lasted for over 30 hours. Their hard work and commitment was appreciated.
- 8.3 A Member commented on the statistics in relation to engagement with children and asked if there were any steps that could be taken to improve these. AM Plant responded that campaigns had taken place to educate the public about the risks of setting fires in the open, but that there was room for improvement in this area.

- 8.4 Members were pleased to note the increase in completing high priority safe and well checks within target and asked how 68% compared to previous years. ACFO Evans stated that this was a pleasing statistic; however, further work was taking place to increase this further over the remainder of the year.

8.5 RESOLVED to:

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

9.0 BIODIVERSITY REPORT AND PLAN

- 9.1 ACFO Helen MacArthur delivered the Biodiversity Report and Plan and sought a recommendation for formal approval and adoption of the Service's statutory Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Report (2022-2025) and the associated Biodiversity Action Plan (2025-2028), ensuring compliance with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.
- 9.2 One Member asked for thanks to be passed on to those responsible for putting together such a well thought out and well written report on what was a matter of great importance.
- 9.3 It was asked if the deadline date for habitat creation, greening stations and native tree planting by May 2028 could be brought forward at all to make it more ambitious, and ACFO MacArthur confirmed that, if possible, this would be progressed. However, it should be borne in mind that the Service only had one Environment and Climate Change manager and there were therefore restricted resources available.
- 9.4 The Chair asked if a quarterly update in relation to Table 2 of the report, which detailed the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Action Plan 2025-2028, could be delivered to Members so that progress could be reviewed regularly, and ACFO MacArthur agreed to develop a timetable of review. It was further asked if the table could be Red, Amber, Green (RAG) rated to indicate progress.

9.5 RESOLVED to:

- i) Endorse the draft Biodiversity Report and Plan for approval by the Authority; and**
- ii) Approve the publication of the Report and Plan on the Service's website until it has been considered for ratification by the Authority.**

10.0 URGENT MATTERS

- 10.1 There were no urgent matters to discuss.

Meeting closed: 14:54 hrs