

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE PANEL

Minutes of the Executive Panel Meeting of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority held on 18 July 2016 at Fire and Rescue Headquarters, St Asaph. Meeting commenced at 10am.

PRESENT

Cllr M LI Davies (Chair)	Denbighshire County Council
Cllr B Cowie	Denbighshire County Council
Cllr L W Davies	Anglesey County Council
Cllr B Dunn	Flintshire County Council
Cllr M Holland	Denbighshire County Council
Cllr P R Lewis	Conwy County Borough Council
Cllr H McGuill	Flintshire County Council
Cllr W R Owen	Gwynedd Council
Cllr W T Owen	Gwynedd Council
Cllr R E Parry	Conwy County Borough Council
Cllr P Pemberton	Wrexham County Borough Council
Cllr A Tansley	Conwy County Borough Council

ALSO PRESENT:

D Docx (Deputy Chief Fire Officer); R Fairhead and R Simmons (Assistant Chief Fire Officers); G W Griffiths (Training and Development Manager); G Brandrick (Professional and Service Standards Manager); S Morris (Corporate Planning Manager); T Williams (Corporate Communications Manager); A Davies (Member Liaison Officer).

APOLOGIES

Cllr R O Jones	Anglesey County Council
Cllr G Lowe	Wrexham County Borough Council
S A Smith	Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive
C Everett	Clerk and Monitoring Officer

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

1.1 None

2 NOTICE OF URGENT MATTERS

2.1 None

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 MAY 2016

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

3.2 The DCFO asked for minute 9.6 to be amended to read as follows:

9.6 *It was noted that a **new integrated communication control system (ICCS)** is being purchased jointly with North Wales Police and this will be done to coincide with the implementation of the national programme.*

3.3 **RESOLVED to approve the minutes as a true and correct record subject to the above noted amendment.**

4 MATTERS ARISING

4.1 There were no matters arising.

5 PERFORMANCE MONITORING 2016-17

5.1 The Corporate Planning Manager presented, and led members through the report which provided information relating to North Wales Fire and Rescue Service activity and monitoring performance against improvement objectives for the first quarter of 2016-17, April to June 2016.

5.2 It was pleasing to note that there had been fewer fire incidents than ever previously recorded between April and June 2016, 535, compared to 673 in the same period in 2015-16. However, there had been an increase in special service calls compared to the same period in 2015 due to the flooding incidents in June 2016.

5.3 Compared to the same period last year there had been a slight increase in the number of dwellings where a fire occurred but where there was no smoke alarm present; this was considered disappointing but Members were reassured that firefighters would install smoke alarms and undertake a HSC following a fire incident at such dwellings and also offer HSCs to nearby properties.

5.4 It was also noted that 94.1% of people involved in an accidental dwelling fire had been able to escape without help and without harm compared to 68.1% in the same period in 2015-16; this could partly be attributed to having a working smoke alarm and a rehearsed escape plan tailored to the needs of the occupants.

5.5 **RESOLVED to note the contents of the performance monitoring report.**

6 SECTOR PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

6.1 The Corporate Planning Manager informed Members of the development of the new all-Wales sector performance indicators.

6.2 Although WG continues to set the strategic performance indicators, it was noted that FRAs are now required to develop their own 'all-Wales sector PIs' "through a partnership approach, whereby consistency in definitions, recording methods and calculations are agreed". Officers from the three FRs have co-operated to compile a set of all-Wales sector performance indicators with accompanying guidance on definitions, recording methods and calculations. This initial set will be kept under review by officers to ensure their continuing applicability and consistency of recording.

6.3 The DCFO commented that this joint approach demonstrates the benefits of working under the NIC, and that developing consistent definitions will enable easier comparison and benchmarking of data in future. Members thanked the Corporate Planning Manager who was leading on this work throughout Wales.

6.4 **RESOLVED to**

- (i) note the progress made in developing and agreeing the new sector PIs; and**
- (ii) approve the inclusion of the new sector PIs in the Authority's draft annual performance assessment 2015/16 document that will be considered by the full Authority at its September 2016 meeting.**

7 WELSH LANGUAGE MONITORING REPORT

7.1 ACFO Fairhead presented the report which sought Members' approval for the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service Welsh Language Scheme Monitoring Report for 2015-16 prior to formal submission to the Welsh Language Commissioner.

7.2 Cllr L W Davies praised the progress that the Service has made with regards to the Welsh language over the years, and it was pleasing to note that more staff now have a higher level of Welsh language skills. In terms of the level 2 standard, it was confirmed that this was a basic conversational Welsh test.

7.3 **RESOLVED to**

- (i) note the progress made in relation to the Welsh Language Scheme; and**
- (ii) approve the 2015-16 monitoring report prior to formal submission to the Welsh Language Commissioner.**

8 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION IN SUPPORT OF THE DRAFT IMPROVEMENT AND WELLBEING OBJECTIVES 2017-18

- 8.1 ACFO Simmons presented the report which informed Members of the design for the public engagement and consultation strategy for the draft improvement and wellbeing objectives 2017-18. The strategy had been reviewed following responses received on last year's consultation.
- 8.2 Cllr McGuill thanked officers for the report and noted that it was encouraging to be able to reach over 55,000 people with the use of social media. It was pleasing to note that the 2016-17 consultation received in excess of 300 responses, compared to the previous four years which averaged 29 responses.
- 8.3 Members discussed the report and the number of consultation responses received in previous years. However, it was noted that the quality of response was an important factor to be considered and that some respondees' comments added more weight and direction to the consultation than others.
- 8.4 **RESOLVED to**
- (i) **note the success of the 2016-17 public engagement and consultation strategy;**
 - (ii) **endorse the consultation strategy for the draft 2017-18 improvement and wellbeing objectives.**

9 CO-RESPONDING PILOT

- 9.1 ACFO Fairhead updated members on the progress and initial findings of the co-responding pilot being carried out by North Wales Fire and Rescue Service.
- 9.2 It was noted that the Service had built a good working relationship with WAST on this project and there was excellent understanding between the two Services' Control staff with regards to call out arrangements. In response to a member's question it was confirmed that firefighters will always respond in pairs in a special vehicle equipped for the purpose, whilst an ambulance will be en route to the address simultaneously.
- 9.3 Members were grateful to the individuals on stations who had volunteered to take part and felt that the pilot was very worthwhile and were supportive of the pilot being extended until February 2017. The Chair also thanked the representative bodies and WAST for their co-operation.
- 9.4 **RESOLVED to note the information and welcome the progress made by NWFRS in developing the co-responding trial and the positive outcomes achieved through NWFRS intervention for 63% of the casualties.**

10 COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS – TRI-EMERGENCY SERVICES

- 10.1 ACFO Fairhead presented the report which informed Members of the collaborative projects being developed between North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, North Wales Police and Wales Ambulance Service Trust.
- 10.2 The Tri Service Collaboration Programme Board has been established with its membership drawn from the three emergency services; the Board meets the WG's desire for FRAs to work more collaboratively at a strategic level and develop the role of the firefighter.
- 10.3 The Board has now established three project boards looking at Control, Support Services and Prevent and Response. The Control project board considers further collaboration within the Joint Communications Centre and beyond including shared systems and training. The Support Services project board is currently focusing on increased sharing of fleet, Welsh language and estates services.
- 10.4 In terms of the Prevent and Respond project board, members have previously been made aware of various initiatives and pilots in the community safety department, these include PCSOs completing home safety checks; falls risks assessment being undertaken by NWP and NWFRS staff; crime reduction training for NWFRS staff; and NWFRS will soon be assisting with missing persons.
- 10.5 It was also noted that a new pilot response team will be launched on 1 August 2016 that will see NWFRS staff being mobilised in Denbighshire to non-injury falls in the home on behalf of WAST, with the ultimate aim to negate the need for an ambulance to attend. This team will also be undertaking a variety of prevention activities and interventions, as well as attending 'concern for safety' calls for NWP. This project has been funded via a combined NWFRS and WAST bid to the Health Fund; the £100k will be used to run the project and prove it as a concept, however, the project will end when the funding comes to an end in a year's time.
- 10.6 Members welcomed these initiatives and noted that suitable training has been delivered to all staff who are partaking in the various pilot projects.
- 10.7 **RESOLVED to note the information provided and welcome and support the collaborative projects and pilots that are in place.**