
10th Meeting of the Finance Sub Group of the Partnership Council for Wales
Tuesday, 4 October 2016
Conference Room 24, Tŷ Hywel, Cardiff Bay
Minutes

Welsh Government

Mark Drakeford AM, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government – Chair

Members

Cllr Aaron Shotton – Flintshire, WLGA Spokesperson for Finance & Resources
Cllr Jamie Adams – Pembrokeshire, WLGA
Cllr Dyfed Edwards – Gwynedd, WLGA
Cllr Peter Fox – Monmouthshire, WLGA
Cllr Anthony Hunt – Torfaen, WLGA (deputising for Cllr Bob Wellington)
Cllr Neil Moore – Vale of Glamorgan, WLGA
Cllr Andrew Morgan – Rhondda Cynon Taff, WLGA

Attending

Cllr Janice Dudley – Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority

Welsh Government Officials

Alex Rawlin – Special Adviser
Reg Kilpatrick – Director, Local Government
Debra Carter – Deputy Director, Local Government Finance Policy
Judith Cole – Deputy Director, Local Government Reform: Finance & Workforce
Rob Hay – Local Government Finance Policy
Simon Edwards – Local Government Finance Policy (note-taker)

Local Government Officials

Steve Thomas – Chief Executive, WLGA
Jon Rae – Director of Resources, WLGA
Nigel Aurelius – Finance Director, Torfaen, WLGA
Mr Geoff Petty – Chief Finance Officer, PCC South Wales (representing Alun Michael)

Apologies

Cllr Bob Wellington – Torfaen, WLGA
Cllr Brendan Toomey – Merthyr Tydfil, WLGA
Rt Hon Alun Michael – Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales, PCCs

Observers

Mari Thomas – WLGA
Liz Aitken – Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

1. The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government (The Minister) welcomed members to the tenth meeting of the Finance Sub Group. It was agreed that Items 3 and 4 would be taken in reverse order.

Agenda Item 2: Minutes and Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

2. Action 1: The Minister confirmed that this work had moved on and a note from the WLGA on the use of diagnostic tools by authorities was no longer required.
3. Action 2: Jon Rae agreed to take responsibility for providing more regular updates to FSG members on the work of the Distribution Sub Group (DSG).
4. Cllr Janice Dudley asked that paragraph 18 of the previous minutes be updated to reflect her contributions regarding grants paid to Fire and Rescue Authorities.

Agenda Item 4: Distribution Sub Group (DSG) Report 2016

5. Rob Hay outlined the content of the DSG Report and The Minister sought agreement on the recommendations regarding the distribution for 2017-18.
6. The FSG agreed the majority of the recommendations. Members expressed different views about the proposed changes to the social services formulae. The Minister asked the WLGA to facilitate a further discussion with the FSG members from unitary authorities and to offer an agreed local government position.
7. To aid members' understanding of the DSG programme, The Minister proposed a seminar-style FSG meeting in the new year to enable more detailed consideration.

Agenda Item 3: Update on the living wage in local government

8. The Minister introduced this as an item to ensure FSG was sighted on this matter and had the opportunity to feed into discussions on the policy considerations and financial implications.
9. Judith Cole provided further background information and responses to technical questions from members. [The Working Group was expected to report to the WPC on 17 November.]

Agenda Item 5: Any Other Business

10. The Minister provided an update on the apprenticeship levy and explained that the Welsh Government was continuing to discuss the matter with the UK Government.
11. Geoff Petty informed the group that the Home Office review of the Police Funding Formula had been restarted. He and Welsh Government officials would work together to ensure the interests of the Welsh forces were represented.
12. The Minister reiterated the need to confirm the position on the recommended changes to the PSS formulae and informed members he would await their views.
13. The next meeting of the FSG would be arranged for early in the new year.