
9th Meeting of the Finance Sub Group of the Partnership Council for Wales
Thursday, 7 July 2016
Conference Room 21, Tŷ Hywel, Cardiff Bay
Minutes

Members

Mark Drakeford AM, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government – Chair
Cllr Aaron Shotton – Flintshire, WLGA Spokesperson for Finance & Resources
Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn – Ceredigion, WLGA (deputising for Cllr Jamie Adams)
Cllr Peter Fox – Monmouthshire, WLGA
Cllr Neil Moore – Vale of Glamorgan, WLGA
Cllr Andrew Morgan – Rhondda Cynon Taff, WLGA
Cllr Dyfed Edwards – Gwynedd, WLGA
Cllr Brendan Toomey – Merthyr Tydfil, WLGA

Attending

Cllr Janice Dudley – Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority
Mr Geoff Petty – Chief Finance Officer, PCC South Wales (representing Alun Michael)

Welsh Government Officials

Alex Rawlin – Special Adviser
Reg Kilpatrick – Director, Local Government
Debra Carter – Deputy Director, Local Government Finance Policy
Rob Hay – Local Government Finance Policy
Alan Storey – Local Government Finance Policy (note-taker)

Local Government Officials

Steve Thomas – Chief Executive, WLGA
Chris Llewellyn – Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Lifelong Learning, WLGA
Nigel Aurelius – Finance Director, Torfaen, WLGA

Apologies

Cllr Bob Wellington – Torfaen, WLGA
Cllr Jamie Adams – Pembrokeshire, WLGA
Rt Hon Alun Michael – Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales, PCCs

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

1. The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government (the Minister) welcomed members to the ninth meeting of the Finance Sub Group, and his first as Chair.

Agenda Item 2: Minutes and Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

2. Action 1: Rob Hay confirmed that the exploration of historical data had been incorporated into the Distribution Sub Group work programme.
3. Action 2: WLGA to provide a note on the use of diagnostic tools by authorities to inform and support transformation activities. This was an outstanding action.
4. Action 3: Points raised at the previous meeting regarding the use of digital had been shared with the Digital Public Services Working Group.

Agenda Item 3: WLGA Paper on Local Government Funding Matters

5. Cllr Aaron Shotton presented the WLGA paper on Local Government Funding Matters and the Minister invited comment from other members.
6. The Minister responded on points around EU Structural Funds, the Welsh Government Budget (including timing), Settlement timetable, specific grants and the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

Agenda Item 4: Police Funding Outlook

7. Geoff Petty presented the paper which outlined the financial outlook for the four Welsh police force areas.
8. The Minister thanked Mr Petty and noted that, following the withdrawal by the Home Office of its proposed changes to the police funding formula for 2016-17, it was unlikely there would be significant changes to the distribution methodology before 2018-19.

Agenda Item 5: Distribution Sub Group (DSG) Progress Report

9. Rob Hay outlined the remit for DSG for 2016 and progress on the key areas of work.
10. There was discussion on the construction of a needs-based approach to resource distribution in relation to waste services, in line with the principles underpinning the RSG formula.
11. Cllr Shotton suggested it would be helpful to have more regular updates on the work of DSG.

Agenda Item 6: Any Other Business

12. The next meeting of FSG was scheduled for 28 September 2016.