
11th Meeting of the Finance Sub Group of the Partnership Council for Wales
Wednesday, 25 January 2017
2nd Floor Conference Room, 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 Dyfed Edwards – Gwynedd, WLGA
Cllr Peter Fox – Monmouthshire, WLGA
Cllr Andrew Morgan – Rhondda Cynon Taff, WLGA

Attending

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

Welsh Government Officials

Reg Kilpatrick – Director, Local Government
Debra Carter – Deputy Director, Local Government Finance Policy
Judith Cole – Deputy Director Local Government Finance Policy
Rob Hay – Local Government Finance Policy
Simon Edwards – Local Government Finance Policy

Local Government Officials

Steve Thomas – Chief Executive, WLGA
Mari Thomas – Finance Policy Officer, WLGA
Nigel Aurelius – Assistant Chief Executive (Resources), Torfaen, WLGA
Mr Geoff Petty – Chief Finance Officer, PCC South Wales (representing Alun Michael)

Apologies

Cllr Neil Moore – Vale of Glamorgan, WLGA
Cllr Jamie Adams – Pembrokeshire, WLGA
Cllr Bob Wellington – Torfaen, WLGA
Cllr Brendan Toomey – Merthyr Tydfil, WLGA
Rt Hon Alun Michael – Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales, PCCs

Observers

Clare Williams – Acting Head of Finance, Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

1. The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government (the Minister) welcomed members to the meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Minutes and Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

2. Actions from the previous meeting had been completed. Agenda Items 3 and 4 provided for a discussion about the local government settlement formula and the Distribution Sub Group (DSG) work programme. There were no matters arising.

Agenda Item 3: Local Government Funding and the Settlement Formula

3. Officials gave a presentation on local government funding and the settlement formula. This was followed by a discussion about the formula and areas for development.

Agenda Item 4: Distribution Sub Group Work Programme for 2017

4. Officials presented a paper setting out the key aspects of the programme of work on the local government settlement and the formula. This was agreed.

Agenda Item 5: Local Government Reform Update

5. The Minister informed the Group that he would be making a statement on 31 January about the reform of local government in Wales. A White Paper would be published the same day. The Minister outlined the scope of the White Paper.

Agenda Item 6: Taking Wales Forward

6. The Minister informed the Group that he would also be issuing a written statement on 31 January setting out the plans for reforming local government finance.

Agenda Item 7: Police and Crime Commissioners' update

7. Geoff Petty provided an update on the Provisional Police Settlement announced on 15 December 2016 and the Home Office review of the police funding formula.

Agenda Item 8: Any Other Business

8. The WLGA asked for an update on the apprenticeship levy and the future of European funding. The Minister set out the position on the apprenticeship levy and confirmed that the Minister for Skills and Science was the lead for this.
9. The Minister outlined the progress in processing applications for European grant funding out and noted that the recent targets had been exceeded.
10. As this was Cllr Dudley's last meeting, the Minister thanked her for her contributions and wished her well for the future.