
12th Meeting of the Finance Sub Group of the Partnership Council for Wales
Wednesday, 12 July 2017
Conference Rooms C+D, Tŷ Hywel, Cardiff Bay
Minutes

MEMBERS

Welsh Government

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

Welsh Local Government Association

Cllr Debbie Wilcox, Leader of the WLGA (Newport)
Cllr Aaron Shotton, Deputy Leader of the WLGA (Flintshire)
Cllr Anthony Hunt, WLGA Finance Spokesperson (Torfaen)
Cllr Andrew Morgan, WLGA Presiding Officer (Rhondda Cynon Taff)
Cllr Paul Miller (Pembrokeshire)
Cllr Peter Fox OBE (Monmouthshire)
Cllr Mark Pritchard (Wrexham)

ATTENDING

Welsh Government Officials

Alex Rawlin – Special Advisor
Reg Kilpatrick – Director, Local Government
Debra Carter – Deputy Director, Local Government Strategic Finance
Clare Blake – Local Government Finance Reform
Simon Edwards – Local Government Finance Policy

Welsh Local Government Association Officials

Chris Llewelyn – Dep Chief Executive / Director Lifelong Learning, Leisure & Information
Jon Rae – Director of Resources
Nigel Aurelius – Assistant Chief Executive (Resources), Torfaen

APOLOGIES

Cllr Dyfrig Lewis Siencyn, WLGA (Gwynedd)
Rt Hon Alun Michael – Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales, PCCs
Steve Thomas – Chief Executive, WLGA

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

1. The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government (the Cabinet Secretary) welcomed members, in particular the new members: Cllr Debbie Wilcox, Cllr Mark Pritchard and Cllr Paul Miller. Apologies were noted.

Agenda Item 2: Minutes and Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

2. The previous minutes were agreed as a true record. There were no actions from the previous meeting.

Agenda Item 3: Distribution Sub Group (DSG) Progress Report

3. Welsh Government officials presented a paper summarising the DSG remit and work programme for 2017 and outlining the progress made over the first three meetings of the year. FSG members expressed a desire to be kept better-informed of the work of the DSG and to have a greater role in shaping the work the DSG carries out.

Action: WLGA and Welsh Government officials to consider how FSG members and the wider local leadership could be better informed about the work of the Distribution Sub Group.

Agenda Item 4: WLGA Paper on Local Government Funding Matters

4. The Cabinet Secretary updated the Group on his conversations with Cabinet colleagues as part of the budget considerations. The publication of the Draft Budget would be a staged process. The intention was to publish high-level information on 3 October, followed by more detailed information later that month. The Final Budget would be published before Christmas and would be considered by the Assembly in the new year.
5. The Cabinet Secretary informed the group he was looking increase flexibility around specific grants and seeking to secure some transfers into the settlement for 2018-19.
6. WLGA officials presented a paper which set out the WLGA's assessment of the pressures facing local government. Their view was that the position was not dissimilar from that presented at previous meetings but that the pressures were growing.

Agenda Item 5: Local Government Reform Update (Paper 4)

7. The Cabinet Secretary said that he would be making a statement on local government reform on 18 July.
8. A new officials group on local government reform met on 10 July and it would have a subgroup to consider the financial arrangements needed to support regional working.

Agenda Item 6: Any Other Business

9. The Cabinet Secretary agreed to extend the next meeting of the FSG to 1.5 hours.