
**13th Meeting of the Finance Sub Group of the Partnership Council for Wales
Thursday, 28 September 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)
Cllr Dyfrig Lewis Siencyn (Gwynedd)

ATTENDING

Welsh Government Officials

Reg Kilpatrick – Director, Local Government
Debra Carter – Deputy Director, Local Government Strategic Finance
Rob Hay – Head of Local Government Finance Policy
Simon Edwards – Local Government Finance Policy

Welsh Local Government Association Officials

Steve Thomas – Chief Executive, WLGA
Jon Rae – Director of Resources, WLGA
Steve Jones – Merthyr Tydfil (Chief Finance Officer), Chair, Society of Welsh Treasurers

Police and Crime Commissioners

Geoff Petty – Chief Finance Officer for South Wales Police and Crime Commission
(representing Rt Hon Alun Michael)

APOLOGIES

Rt Hon Alun Michael – South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

1. The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government (the Cabinet Secretary) welcomed members to the thirteenth meeting of the Finance Sub Group and noted the sad passing of Cllr Janice Dudley who previously attended this group as the representative for the fire and rescue authorities.

Agenda Item 2: Minutes and Matters Arising from Previous Meeting (Paper 1)

2. The previous minutes were agreed as a true record. There was one Action Point from the meeting: Paragraph 22 – WLGA and Welsh Government officials to consider how FSG members and the wider local government leadership could be better informed about the work of the Distribution Sub Group. This will be dealt with under agenda item four.

Agenda Item 3: WLGA letter to the First Minister on the Welsh Government Budget

3. The Cabinet Secretary set out his plans for the announcement of the Welsh Government Budget and local government settlement for 2018-19 and invited Cllr Wilcox to present a letter from the WLGA to the First Minister of Wales on the Welsh Government Budget. FSG members expressed their concerns in a number of areas, most notably around the impact cuts to local government funding on the delivery of statutory services.

Agenda Item 4: Distribution Sub Group (DSG) Overview

4. Rob Hay and Jon Rae presented an overview of the work of the Distribution Sub Group (DSG), including looking at the future work programme of the DSG.

Action: Finance Sub Group members to further consider the items set out in the future work programme section of the paper and to reflect the wider views of local government at the January meeting.

Agenda Item 5: Distribution Sub Group Report

5. Rob Hay presented an overview the DSG report, including the recommendations of the group for implementation in the 2018-19 settlement. The report was agreed by the group and the Cabinet Secretary thanked the DSG for their work throughout the year.

Agenda Item 6: Police and Crime Commissioners (Oral Update)

6. Geoff Petty provided an update on the financial considerations with regards to Police and Crime Commissioners.

Agenda Item 7: Any Other Business

7. Cllr Hunt asked whether a further meeting could take place between the announcement of the UK Government's autumn budget on 22 November and the final draft budget on 19 December.

Action: Investigate the possibility of another meeting between the announcement of the UK Government's autumn budget on 22 November and the final draft budget on 19 December.