

17th Meeting of the Finance Sub Group of the Partnership Council for Wales
Wednesday, 27 September 2018
Conference Room, Tŷ Hywel, Cardiff Bay
Minutes

MEMBERS

Welsh Government

Alun Davies AM, Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services –
Chair
Mark Drakeford AM, Cabinet Secretary for Finance

Welsh Local Government Association

Cllr Andrew Morgan, WLGA Presiding Officer (Rhondda Cynon Taff)
Cllr Aaron Shotton, Deputy Leader of the WLGA (Flintshire)
Cllr Peter Fox OBE (Monmouthshire)
Cllr Marc Pritchard (Wrexham)
Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn (Gwynedd)
Cllr Mark Whitcutt (Newport)
Cllr Huw David WLGA Deputy Presiding Officers (Bridgend)

ATTENDING

Welsh Government Officials

Rachel Maycock – Special Adviser
Reg Kilpatrick – Director, Local Government
Judith Cole – Deputy Director, Local Government Finance & Workforce
Partnerships
Debra Carter – Deputy Director, Local Government Strategic Finance
Simon Edwards – Local Government Finance & Workforce Partnerships

Welsh Local Government Association Officials

Steve Thomas CBE – Chief Executive, WLGA
Nigel Aurelius – SWT Representative
John Rae – Director of Resources, WLGA

Police and Crime Commissioners

Rt Hon Alun Michael – South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner

APOLOGIES

Cllr Debbie Wilcox, WLGA Leader (Newport)
Cllr Paul Miller (Pembrokeshire)
Cllr Anthony Hunt, WLGA Finance Spokesperson (Torfaen)

Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

1. The Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services (the Cabinet Secretary) welcomed members to the 17th meeting of the Finance Sub Group.

Item 2: Minutes and Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

2. The previous minutes were agreed as a true record. Actions arising from the previous meeting were confirmed as complete.

Item 3: Update from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance (Oral item)

3. The Cabinet Secretary for Finance confirmed timings around the UK and Welsh Government budgets.
4. Cabinet was agreed that local government would be first to benefit from additional funding from the UK Government budget.
5. The Cabinet Secretary for Finance advised he will be seeking to make changes to the arrangements in council tax enforcement in future and to also make non-domestic rates avoidance more difficult.

Item 4: Police and Crime Commissioners' update

6. The RT Hon Alun Michael expressed the continuing desire for further devolution in relation to policing and justice.

Item 5: DSG Final Report 2018

7. Leaders were informed the recommendation regarding council tax discounts has been removed as DSG agreed this required further modelling.
8. FSG members accepted the recommendations in the DSG report.

Item 6: Update from the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services: Working Group on Local Government

9. The Cabinet Secretary asked Welsh Government and WLGA to consider how the group's considerations could be communicated more widely.

Item 7: WLGA paper/update

10. The paper on local government pressures was presented and noted.

Item 8: Any Other Business

11. No other business was noted.