



**Minutes of the Board Meeting, 23 October 2020**

**Present:**

Shan Morgan

Meena Upadhyaya

Peter Kennedy

Des Clifford

Jeff Farrar

Andrew Jeffreys

Andrew Slade

Andrew Goodall

Natalie Pearson

Gawain Evans

David Richards

Ellen Donovan

Gareth Lynn

Helen Lentle

Charlotte Cosserat

Robin Bradfield

Carla Lyne

**In attendance:**

Sharon Cross

Angharad Reakes

Jamie Gillies

**Secretariat:**

Charmain Watts

**Minutes drafted by:**

Jack Sanders

**Apologies:**

Tracey Burke

**1. Welcome**

- 1.1 The Permanent Secretary welcomed all attendees to the Welsh Government Board.
- 1.2 Minutes from the last meeting were agreed.

**2. Current Issues/Covid-19 update**

- 2.1 Andrew Goodall updated the Board on the latest developments on Covid-19 and the current position in Wales, discussion focused on:
  - Transmission of virus in Wales,
  - Test, trace and protect,
  - Critical care activities,
  - Testing,
  - Number of positive cases.
- 2.2 Andrew Goodall advised that the number of positive Covid cases is rising due to increased testing, but Wales remains the lowest of the 4 countries, he also advised local restrictions have lower number of positive Covid infections.
- 2.3 Des Clifford provided an update on the Fire Break regulations and shared the initial thinking on plans around a change of regime after the Fire Break. Andrew Slade also updated the Board on the key issues facing railways due to Covid-19.
- 2.4 The NEDs sought assurance on how the organisation is balancing the resourcing demands of key areas of work including Covid-19, Brexit and the delivery of the programme for Government.
- 2.5 The Permanent Secretary explained to the Board the work around resourcing to ensure the delivery of priority areas of work. She explained that a huge amount of effort is continuously being undertaken by the Organisational Development team to look at ways of shifting staff and filling key critical posts within the organisation.

**3. Finance Update and Annual Accounts**

## **WG PTN Board Paper 001**

3.1 Gawain Evans provided an update on month 6 in year management which focused on:

- Revenue forecast
- Capital forecast
- Position of current reserves

3.2 Gawain Evans also provided an update regarding the annual accounts being qualified for the first time this year. This was due to a complex technical issue which led to a very rare difference of opinion between Welsh Government Officials and the Wales Audit Office.

3.3 Gareth Lynn explained that an exceptional ARAC meeting was held to discuss this issue, as ARAC Chair he confirmed that he was satisfied with the strong governance approach taken around this decision.

3.4 Andrew Jeffreys advised the board that Welsh Government has continued to allocate the remaining Covid-19 funding. He also provided an update on the annual spending review.

## **4. Welsh Government Performance Framework Workshop**

4.1 Sharon Cross and Angharad Reakes facilitated a workshop on the Welsh Government Key Performance. Board discussion focused on 4 key questions:

- Which attributes are most important right now?
- Are there any concerns about performance?
- Are the right actions in place to improve performance?
- The most important attribute to be focused on in the next 6 months.

## **5. Other Business**

5.1 David Richards provided an update on the Legislation Programme Board and advised that the Board was considering the actions and recommendations from the NED led challenge sessions.

5.2 The Permanent Secretary reminded everyone to complete the Self-assessment questionnaire which is important to ensure the Welsh Government Board remains efficient and effective.

**WG PTN Board Paper 001**

**Actions arising at Board meeting**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	<b>LATEST POSITION</b>
<b>No Actions</b>		