
DENBIGHSHIRE PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD

Monday, 11 April 2016 at 2.00 pm
North Wales Fire and Rescue Services, St Asaph

PRESENT:	Mohammed Mehmet	Denbighshire County Council (Chair)
	Councillor Hugh Evans	Denbighshire County Council (DCC)
	Bethan Jones	Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCHUBH)
	Simon Smith	North Wales Fire and Rescue Service (NWFRS)
	Sian Williams	Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
In attendance:	Iwan Davies	Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC)
	Councillor Dilwyn Roberts	Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC)
Officers:	Sian Harland	Committee Services Officer (CCBC)
	Euros Jones	Partnership Manager (NRW)
	Nicola Kneale	Strategic Planning and Performance Officer (DCC)
	Fran Lewis	Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager (CCBC)
	Nigel McCann	Assistant Director of Finance (BCUHB)
	Shan Morris	Corporate Planning Manager (NWFRS)
	Hannah Rigby	Public Services Board Development Officer (CCBC)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

2. AGREEMENT OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

It was agreed that the draft Terms of Reference would be deferred, pending the outcome of the proposal to create a Joint Public Services Board with Conwy. If it was agreed to create a Joint Public Services Board, the draft Terms of Reference would be considered as part of the Joint Meeting's agenda.

RESOLVED-

That the draft Terms of Reference be deferred.

3. **PROPOSAL TO CREATE A JOINT PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD WITH CONWY**

Whilst Partners considered that a merged Board was the way forward, there were concerns that, in the future, a merged Board would not be able to de-merge. This was due to the legislation, which specifically allowed for Boards to merge, but was silent in relation to not to de-merge. Welsh Government officials had expressed the view that a specific legal power to de-merge was required in order to reverse a decision to merge PSBs.

The Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager (Fran Lewis – CCBC) informed the Partners that the Welsh Government had advised that the ability to de-merge would be written into future legislation.

In terms of the legality of merging and de-merging, the Chief Executive (Iwan Davies – CCBC) offered his opinion that if there was a power to merge then it could be implied that there was a power to de-merge. If this opinion was incorrect, then it could be argued that the decision to merge was incorrect and could therefore be undone.

The Partnerships Director (Sioned Rees – WG) advised that there was provision to merge within the legislation, but no provision to de-merge. There was also the capacity within the legislation to permit extensive collaboration, if the Boards did not want to formally merge.

There was concern that collaboration, rather than merging, would create more meetings for those Partners whose organisations covered the whole of either North Wales or Wales as a whole.

As the future of Local Government Re-organisation was uncertain, it was suggested that the Boards should merge, as the powers to de-merge would probably be in place if there was a requirement to split in the future (if indeed such a de-merger power was necessary), as a result of a change to Local Authority boundaries. It was acknowledged that this decision did have a small level of risk, but that this risk could be managed.

The Board papers included the outline demographic information which has been drafted to commence the work for the Assessment of Well-being. The rationale for merging was based on the recognition that both counties share similar community needs which could be addressed most effectively through collaboration across the two counties. A merged Board could build on the good work and relationships developed through the former Conwy and Denbighshire Local Service Board, and would provide operational, tactical and strategic benefits within and across the central region of North Wales and would thereby assist in contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals, which were:-

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities

- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
- A globally responsible Wales

RESOLVED-

That the Denbighshire Public Services Board merges with the Conwy Public Services Board, as a merged Board would assist in contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals.