

Meeting of the Finance Sub Group of the Partnership Council for Wales  
Monday, 2 November 2020  
11:00 – 12:30  
MS Teams  
Minutes

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**Welsh Government Ministers**

Julie James MS, Minister for Housing and Local Government – Chair  
Hannah Blythyn MS, Deputy Minister for Housing and Local Government  
Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Trefnydd  
Lesley Griffiths MS, Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs  
Jeremy Miles MS, Counsel General and Minister for European Transition

**Welsh Local Government Association**

Cllr Andrew Morgan (RCT)  
Cllr Anthony Hunt (Torfaen)  
Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn (Gwynedd)  
Cllr Carol Clement-Williams (Neath Port Talbot)  
Cllr Mark Pritchard (Wrexham)  
Cllr Peter Fox (Monmouthshire)  
Cllr Rob Stewart (Swansea)

**Police and Crime Commissioners**

Peter Curran – Chief Finance Officer, South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner

**Welsh Local Government Association officials**

Dr Chris Llewelyn – Chief Executive, WLGA  
Jon Rae – Director of Resources, WLGA  
Nigel Aurelius – Torfaen (Chief Finance Officer)

**Welsh Government officials**

Judith Cole – Deputy Director, Local Government Finance and Workforce Partnerships Division  
Debra Carter – Deputy Director, Local Government Strategic Finance  
Name Redacted – Head of Local Government Funding  
Paul Griffiths – Special Advisor  
Name Redacted – Strategic Budgeting  
Alex Bevan – Special Adviser

**APOLOGIES**

Cllr Paul Miller (Pembrokeshire)  
Alun Michael, South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner  
Reg Kilpatrick – Director Local Government, Welsh Government

**Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Introductions**

1. The Minister for Housing and Local Government (the Minister) welcomed members to the 4<sup>th</sup> Finance Sub Group meeting of 2020 and recorded apologies.

**Agenda Item 2: Minutes and Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting**

2. The minutes from the last meeting were agreed. The action under paragraph 8 was discussed at a meeting of the Welsh Police Finance and Resources Group, and there is now a police representative on the Society of Welsh Treasurers.
3. The action under paragraph 19 had been discharged. The Minister for Education was unable to attend the meeting as hoped but, following discussions with local government, had issued a written statement (14 October) detailing the 2020/21 teachers' pay deal and associated funding for local government. Grant award letters will be issued in due course.

**Agenda Item 3: Finance Minister's Update**

4. The Minister for Finance and Trefnydd (MFT) opened by reviewing the in-year position. In the summer the UK Government had provided an upfront guarantee of £4bn for Wales as a result of COVID-19 interventions in England. In response to the pandemic, Welsh Government had allocated £800 million to the NHS in Wales and £500 million to Local Government. Since then the UK Government had announced the enhanced Job Support Scheme from 1 November and a package of business support grants. The UK Government also announced an increase to the guarantee funding resulting in an extra £400m for Wales.
5. As a result of the firebreak, additional funding has been made available to businesses and employers in Wales, and this will be reviewed in light of recent developments in England. The MFT had announced on 23 October an extra £10 million to help protect workers at risk of falling through the gaps. In addition, Ministers were increasing the Discretionary Assistance Fund by £5 million to continue to provide grants to people in need of urgent help during the crisis.
6. The MFT said the second supplementary budget published on 20 October, would be debated on 17 November. It would not include details of the £320 million reconstruction package the MFT announced on 6 October. This package includes capital investment in low carbon housing, schools and primary care.
7. The MFT confirmed the UK Government had announced a spending review with 1-year revenue and capital budgets, but multi-year budgets for the NHS and schools' infrastructure. The MFT explained the Government would need to see the full budget before making decisions on multi-year allocations, as there could be negative consequential funding in other areas than schools and health. The spending review would be published on 25 November and the Welsh Government would be pressing, with Scotland and Northern Ireland, for greater clarity on issues such as European funding.
8. The MFT confirmed the new date for the spending review meant the draft Welsh Government Budget would now be published on 21 December. The MFT noted that this would allow for 7 weeks of scrutiny in the Senedd, but would fall short of the usual 8 weeks. This would ensure the Final Budget and final local