



Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-P/LA/0296/16

Christine Chapman AM
Chair
Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

27 January 2016

Dear Christine,

During my Committee appearance on 13th January I agreed to provide further information on a number of matters.

Funding for the Fire and Rescue Services

I have made the following changes to the budgets payable directly to Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs):

- Resilience revenue grants will fall by some £200,000. In recent years, this grant has not been fully spent and these reductions should therefore be achieved without affecting existing levels of front line capability.
- Community fire safety revenue grants will also fall by some £200,000. Preventing fires is clearly vital, but preventative work is increasingly, and rightly, part of FRAs' core role. As such it should be delivered and funded accordingly, using FRAs' core resources, not from special grants.

The balance of the £700,000 reduction in this budget line will be met from reducing funding to a number of other recipients such as the Wales Audit Office work.

Flood prevention and management

While the incidence of flooding is clearly related to significant adverse weather and tidal incidents, there a long-term decline in the number of floods to which FRAs respond, just as there has been for the number of fires.

FRA's fund all their responsive services, including firefighting and flood response, from their core resources. These core resources are financed by Local Authority contributions which are set annually by each FRA. It follows that the level of funding for responsive services is a matter for FRA's to determine according to local priorities and in consultation with Local Authorities. It is not a matter for Welsh Government as we do not control the funding decisions which FRA's choose to make.

FRA's have no legal duty to respond to flooding. In practice they have responded for many years and continue to maintain a comprehensive capability in this area. I am considering whether to formalise that position by creating a duty to respond to flooding, and will consult on that in due course.

Per Capita Funding

I agreed to provide a list of each Local Authority's per capita funding, which the following Aggregate External Finance (AEF) table illustrates.

WELSH LOCAL GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENT 2016-17

Provisional

Table 1c: Aggregate External Finance (AEF) per capita, by Unitary Authority, 2016-17

Unitary authority	Provisional AEF (£000s)	Provisional AEF per capita (£)*	Rank
Isle of Anglesey	91,925	1,310	12
Gwynedd	166,990	1,356	9
Conwy	149,429	1,287	13
Denbighshire	139,602	1,454	6
Flintshire	184,743	1,196	19
Wrexham	169,761	1,200	18
Powys	168,488	1,252	17
Ceredigion	96,570	1,269	14
Pembrokeshire	156,932	1,263	15
Carmarthenshire	251,685	1,333	10
Swansea	307,754	1,255	16
Neath Port Talbot	205,567	1,457	4
Bridgend	187,508	1,311	11
The Vale Of Glamorgan	150,443	1,167	20
Rhondda Cynon Taf	353,769	1,500	2
Merthyr Tydfil	89,188	1,485	3
Caerphilly	263,293	1,455	5
Blaenau Gwent	109,252	1,576	1
Torfaen	129,296	1,405	7
Monmouthshire	91,439	994	22
Newport	209,133	1,388	8
Cardiff	426,285	1,162	21
Total Unitary Authorities	4,099,052	1,309	

* Based upon 2011-based, 2016 population projections

Welsh language task and finish group Terms of Reference

Finally, I agreed to provide you with a copy of Rhodri Glyn Thomas's Terms of Reference for the Welsh Language task and finish group, which are in the public domain and can be found at the following link:

<http://gov.wales/docs/cabinetstatements/2015/151210toren.pdf>

Yours sincerely,



Leighton Andrews AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus
Minister for Public Services