

SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE, AUDIT & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 17 JANUARY 2011 AT SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS

148. PRESENT:

Councillor	Left
R J W Greenland (Chairman)	Monmouthshire
C Mann (Vice Chairman)	Caerphilly
B Jones	Torfaen
S J Jones	Rhondda Cynon Taff
L W Kelloway	Cardiff
G Price	Merthyr Tydfil
W Routley	Newport
E T Williams	Vale of Glamorgan

APOLOGIES:

M Bartlett	Blaenau Gwent
C James	Bridgend

ABSENT:

OFFICERS PRESENT:- CFO A Marles, ACO P Haynes – Director of Peoples Services, ACO S Murton – Director of Corporate Support, Mr S Greenslade – Treasurer, Ms H Wheatley – RSM Tenon, Mr R Davies – RSM Tenon, Ms Lisa Williams – Wales Audit Office, Ms V De Zouche – KPMG Accountant, C Powell – Head of Business Support

149. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Each Member declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in each agenda item which affected their Authority.

150. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman informed Members that Remote Access Training was available for Members following the meeting.

151. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The following minutes were received and accepted as a true record of proceedings:-

- FAPM Meeting held on 15 November 2010
- Finance Working Group Meeting held on 19 November 2010
- Asset Management Working Group Meeting held on 3 December 2010

152. REVENUE MONITOR 2010/11

The ACO Corporate Support informed Members that the Revenue Monitor report provides details of the annual revenue budget, actual revenue expenditure and income up to 30 November, and the forecast outturn position for the period ending 31 March 2011.

RESOLVED THAT

152.1 Members noted and received the budget monitoring report.

152.2 Members appraised the options presented in Appendix 2 to the report, and agreed to pursue option 1.

153. CAPITAL MONITOR 2010/11

The ACO Corporate Support informed Members that the Capital Monitor report provides details of the total Capital Budget for the year and the actual expenditure to the end of November. The forecast spend and estimated slippage for the end of the year is based on information contained within departmental plans for the remainder of the year.

RESOLVED THAT

153.1 Members agreed that the virement of funds outlined in paragraph 2.1.4 to the report be approved.

153.2 Members agreed that the funding strategy and slippage in the attached appendices to the report be approved.

153.3 Members agreed that the situation of slippage should be discussed further at the Asset Management Working Group.

154. FUEL

At the request of Members, the Head of Business Support reported on the issues surrounding the use and purchase of fuel within the Service.

Following discussion by Members of the actions taken to date Members

RESOLVED THAT

154.1 A strategic review of fuel holding is undertaken prior to the purchase of an electronic fuel monitoring system.

154.2 Members requested a further audit is undertaken on fuel, and is included in the Audit Programme for 2011/12.

154.3 Members unanimously agreed that the way forward is to implement a new electronic fuel monitoring system, and requested a further report be presented to the March meeting of the FAPM Committee on the outcome of the tender process.

155. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The Head of Business Support updated Members upon progress being made against the Internal Audit Plan 2010/11.

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted the work and findings of the Internal Audit.

156. WALES AUDIT OFFICE ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER

A representative from KPMG summarised for Members the key findings of the Auditor General for Wales' Annual Audit Letter received by the South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority.

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted the findings of the Annual Audit Letter issued by the Auditor General for Wales.

157. SOUTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY PEER ASSESSMENT REPORT 2010-11

The Chief Fire Officer introduced to Members the results of the Peer Assessment report for 2010-2011 undertaken by the Welsh Assembly Government, and peer assessors from the other two Fire and Rescue Services in Wales.

RESOLVED THAT

157.1 Members noted the content of the review.

157.2 Members agreed for the Chief Fire Officer to raise the issue of inviting Elected Members to join the Peer Assessment Team, at the next Welsh Assembly Government meeting.

158. WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION:

1. PROPOSALS FOR STATUTORY, SUPPORTING AND LOCAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITIES IN WALES

2. FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITIES GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR DWELLING FIRES RESPONSE STANDARDS

The Chief Fire Officer outlined to Members the Welsh Assembly Government's consultations on performance indicators and dwelling fire response standards and the proposed Fire and Rescue Authority response.

RESOLVED THAT

158.1 Members considered the response and agreed its contents.

158.2 Members requested a further report to a FAPM meeting on the standard in due course.

158.3 Members agreed to delete the wording 'we therefore suggest that the indicator is removed' on Appendix 3, page 103, to the report.

159. SPIKES CAVELL

The ACO Corporate Support updated Members on the work undertaken by Spikes Cavell who carried out a spend analysis of the three Fire and Rescue Services in Wales. The report outlined the summary findings of the spend analysis for South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority.

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted the content of the report.

160. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The ACO Corporate Support presented the Forward Work Programme.

RESOLVED THAT

Members accepted the Forward Work Programme for Finance, Audit & Performance Management.

161. TO CONSIDER ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DEEMS URGENT (PART 1 AND PART 2)

There were two items of urgent business.

162. LATE REQUEST TO ATTEND A DEVELOPMENT COURSE OVERSEAS

The ACO Corporate Support requested Members opinion on the use by the Chief Fire Officer of his emergency powers to authorise overseas travel due to insufficient time being available to take the matter to the Fire & Rescue Authority meeting.

RESOLVED THAT

Members endorsed the Chief Fire Officer using his emergency delegated powers to approve the attendance of Station Manager Moody to attend the Community Mechanism Induction Course in Hamburg, Germany, 5-11 February 2011, and to report this decision to the next meeting of the Fire & Rescue Authority.