

SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE, AUDIT & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2011 AT SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS

31. PRESENT:

Councillor

Left

R J W Greenland (Chairman)	Monmouthshire
C Mann (Vice Chairman)	Caerphilly
C James	Bridgend
L W Kelloway	Cardiff
V Smith	Monmouthshire
E T Williams	Vale of Glamorgan

APOLOGIES:

B Jones	Torfaen
G Price	Merthyr Tydfil
B Thomas	Blaenau Gwent

ABSENT:

S J Jones	Rhondda Cynon Taff
W Routley	Newport

OFFICERS PRESENT:- CFO A Marles, ACO P Haynes – Director of Peoples Services, ACO S Chapman – Director of Corporate Services, ACFO R Hammerton – Director of Technical Services, AM A Thomas – Head of Operational Risk Management, Mr Steve Greenslade – Treasurer, Mr C Powell – Head of Business Support, GM R Prendergast – Operations Department, Ms L Mullan – Management Accountant, Ms Helen Cargill – RSM Tenon, Ms Lisa Williams – Wales Audit Office

32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

33. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chairman's Announcements.

34. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

- FAPM meeting held on 17 October 2011
- Asset Management Working Group meeting held on 16 September 2011

35. REVENUE MONITOR 2011/2012

The Management Accountant informed Members that the Revenue Monitor report provided details of the annual revenue budget, expenditure and income up to 30 September and the forecast outturn position for the period ending 31 March 2012.

RESOLVED THAT

35.1 Members agreed to receive and note the budget monitoring report.

35.2 Members approved the virement requested in paragraph 2.5 to the report.

36. CAPITAL MONITOR 2011/2012

The Management Accountant informed Members the Capital Monitor report provided details of the total capital budget for the year and the actual expenditure to the end of September. The forecast spend to the end of the year was given based on information contained within departmental plans for the remainder of the year.

The ACO Corporate Services provided Members with an update on the sale of Lanelay Hall, and the decision of Members of the Finance Working Group to pursue non-determination if the outcome is not satisfactory by the Fire & Rescue Authority's meeting in December. The Finance Working Group also agreed that they would bring the matter to the attention of the Members for Rhondda Cynon Taff, and the relevant Cabinet Members. Members were reminded that the commencement of building the Britannia Site is dependent on the sale of Lanelay Hall.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to note the content of the report.

37. TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2011/12 MID-TERM REVIEW REPORT

The Treasurer informed Members that the Mid-Term Review Report sets out comprehensive information on treasury management activity undertaken during the period 1 April – 30 September 2011, and provided further commentary on recent events affecting the money markets.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to recommend that the Fire & Rescue Authority approve the result of the treasury management activities and the performance achieved to date in 2011/2012.

38. BUDGET SHAPING 2012/2013

The Treasurer provided Members with information enabling them to review progress with formulating budget proposals to constituent councils by the due date, in the light of the recently announced Provisional Local Government Settlement, and work previously undertaken by Members.

RESOLVED THAT

38.1 Following Members consideration of the information contained within the report together with the oral update from the Finance Working Group set in the context of the Provisional Local Government Settlement, they unanimously

requested that Officers produce detailed proposals for a 2012/13 contributions budget that is 0.8% lower than the equivalent 2011/12 budget.

38.2 Members agreed for exemplifications to be produced enabling proposals to be made to constituent councils at the Fire & Rescue Authority meeting of 19 December 2011.

38.3 Members agreed to resolve to be minded to use population projections in determining the attribution of contributions between constituent councils for 2012/13 and beyond pending receipt of exemplifications at their December meeting.

39. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The Head of Business Support updated Members upon progress being made against the Internal Audit Plan 2011/2012.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to note the work and findings of the Internal Audit.

40. WALES AUDIT OFFICE UPDATE 2011/2012

The Wales Audit Officer presented Members with a report on the Wales Audit Office Update 2011/12.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to receive and note the content of the report.

41. WALES AUDIT OFFICE ANNUAL FEES 2012/2013

The ACO Corporate Services brought Members attention to the fee consultation being undertaken by the Auditor General for Wales in respect of proposed audit fees for 2012/13.

RESOLVED THAT

41.1 Members agreed the response to the consultation.

41.2 Members unanimously agreed for the ACO Corporate Services to continue to negotiate with the Wales Audit Office to obtain the lowest fee possible.

42. CORPORATE RISK REGISTER – SIX MONTHLY REVIEW

The ACO Corporate Services requested Members consideration on the risks within the Corporate Risk Register and the management of those risks.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed and validated the significant and material risks contained within the Corporate Risk Register.

43. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SWFRS AND WELSH WATER

The Head of Operational Risk Management presented a report to Members on the Service's current relationship with Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) and the issues regarding the backlog of hydrant repairs. The report also indicated that the progress being made was encouraging, and by entering into the Service Level Agreement (SLA) it would give South Wales Fire & Rescue Service the legal framework to establish a consistent approach for the maintenance of hydrant repairs.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to note the content of the report.

44. UPDATE ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH TRADE UNIONS ON DAY DUTY SYSTEM DETRIMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The ACO Corporate Services presented Members with a verbal update on the negotiations with Trade Unions on Day Duty System Detriment Arrangements.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to receive and note the verbal update.

45. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

The ACO Corporate Services outlined for Members the Welsh Government's (WG) consultation on the publication of Fire & Rescue Authorities Improvement Plans.

RESOLVED THAT

Members authorised the response.

46. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The ACO Corporate Services presented the Forward Work Programme.

RESOLVED THAT

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

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

There were no items of urgent business.