

SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE FINANCE, AUDIT & PERFORMANCE
MANAGEMENT MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 11 APRIL 2022 AT
IN MEETING ROOM 8 OR REMOTELY VIA STARLEAF

110. PRESENT:

Councillor	Left
S Evans (Chair)	Torfaen
D White (Deputy Chair)	Bridgend
M Colbran	Merthyr Tydfil
P Drake	Vale of Glamorgan
S Morgans	Rhondda Cynon Taff
V Smith	Monmouthshire
A Hussey	Caerphilly

APOLOGIES:

M Spencer	Newport
D De'Ath	Cardiff

ABSENT:

W Hodgins	Blaenau Gwent
-----------	---------------

OFFICERS PRESENT:- Mr G Thomas – Temporary ACO – Director of Corporate Services, Mrs S Watkins – Deputy Monitoring Officer, Mr C Barton – Treasurer, Mrs L Mullan – T/Head of Finance, Procurement & Property, Mr S Gourlay – TIAA Internal Auditor, Ms J Morris – Audit Wales, Mr N Selwyn – Audit Wales, Mr C Rigby – Audit Wales

111. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

112. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair thanked all Members of the Committee and Officers for their work, diligence and support over the last municipal year.

113. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

- Finance, Audit & Performance Management Scrutiny Group meeting held on 07 March, 2022

114. REPORTS FOR DECISION

114.1 INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL PLAN 2022/2023

The Auditor Mr S Gourlay presented the report detailing the proposed Internal Audit Annual Plan for 2022/2023, for Members approval. It was advised that the Plan was not static and is flexible to change to any emerging themes in line with approval from Members. The TIAA won the Audit tender process in March and the contract is in place for 3 years with Service provision in place to extend for a further 2 years.

RESOLVED THAT

Members approved the Internal Audit Annual Plan for 2022/2023.

114.2 AUDIT WALES ENQUIRIES TO “THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE” – DRAFT RESPONSE

The Temporary Head of Finance, Procurement and Property presented the draft response to the Audit Wales paper on ‘Those Charged with Governance’ when approving financial statements.

RESOLVED THAT

Members confirmed the response to the Audit Wales questions, as detailed in Appendix 1.

114.3 AUDIT WALES CARBON EMISSIONS REDUCTION REPORT

The Auditor Mr Selwyn gave a presentation of the key conclusions of the Audit review into the Authority’s progress in reducing its carbon emissions and its full contribution to Wales’ Public Sector becoming carbon neutral by 2030. There are 5 recommendations that were identified and will be taken forward:

- Improve the quality of the carbon baseline.
- Review the actions in the Carbon Reduction & Biodiversity & Ecosystems Resilience Forward Plan ensuring they are SMART and focused on key risks and challenges.
- Revise the Vehicle Replacement Programme Policy and agree the Authority’s strategy for replacing diesel appliances and improving the charging infrastructure.

- Engage and involve staff in planning for carbon emissions reduction to ensure they take ownership and contribute to deliver key actions.
- Strengthen how progress in delivering actions to reduce carbon emissions and deliver against WG targets.

Members agreed that the report provided areas of good practice and constructive challenge and will continue to feed back.

The T/Director of Corporate Services advised that the number of charging points on station has increased to 11. A Sustainability Steering Group has also been set up with attendees from all Departments.

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted and accept the Audit Wales Carbon Emissions Reduction Report.

115. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

115.1 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT & AUDIT ACTION UPDATE

The Temporary Head of Finance Procurement and Property updated members on the progress being made against the Audit Plan

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted the recommendations and work completed to date.

115.2 INTERNAL AUDITORS ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2022

The Auditor presented the report that summarised the internal audit work that has been undertaken this year. He stressed that the Annual Report is currently in draft, but he is not anticipating any changes.

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted the work and overall opinion of the Internal Auditors for the financial year 2021/2022.

115.3 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WORK OF THE FINANCE, AUDIT & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE FINANCE, ASSET & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY GROUP

The Head of Corporate Support presented the report on the work of the Finance, Audit and Performance Management Committee and its Scrutiny Group for the municipal year 2021/2022, providing a summary of the report. Item 3.3 in appendix 1 will be updated to this year's Audit Plan.

RESOLVED THAT

Members considered the report and resolved there were no amendments to be made to the content prior to reporting to the Fire & Rescue Authority as summary of the workload carried out by the Committee and Scrutiny Group during the municipal year.

116. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22

The T/Director of Corporate Services presented the Forward Work Programme.

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted the completion of the Forward Work Programme for 2020/21.

117. TO CONSIDER ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT (PART 1 OR 2)

There were no further items of business to consider that the Chair deemed urgent.