

SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE, AUDIT & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT MEETING

**HELD ON MONDAY 10 OCTOBER 2022 AT
IN MEETING ROOM 8 OR VIA TEAMS**

9. PRESENT:

Councillor	Left	
S Evans (Chair)		Torfaen
J Morgan (Deputy Chair)		Blaenau Gwent
I Buckley		Vale of Glamorgan
M Hughes		Bridgend
D Parkin	11.30	Rhondda Cynon Taff
M Al Nuaimi		Newport
C Wright		Caerphilly
M Powell		Monmouthshire

APOLOGIES: B Proctor Cardiff

ABSENT: D Isaac Merthyr

OFFICERS PRESENT:- Temp ACO G Thomas – Monitoring Officer & Temp Director of Corporate Services, Mr C Barton – Treasurer, Area Manager Garry Davies – Head of Service Delivery, Mrs L Mullan – Temp Head of Finance, Procurement & Property, Mr Wayne Thomas – Head of Performance Management, Mr S Gourlay – TIAA Internal Auditor,

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

The Chair declared a personal interest in items which related to planning applications for New Inn Fire Station. Cllr Buckley declared a personal interest in items related to Penarth Fire Station and any stations where members of his family work.

11. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chairman's Announcements to record.

12. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous Finance, Audit & Performance Management meeting held on 25 July 2022, were received and accepted as a true record of proceedings.

13. REPORTS FOR DECISION

13.1 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY, RESERVE STRATEGY AND REVENUE BUDGET UPDATE

The Treasurer went through the report with the group advising that it was presented at the last Fire Authority meeting. There has been an increase in the budget projection figures from 9.1% to 10.6%. All the assumptions will be reviewed over the next few months. The Treasurer reported that the Service will attend all Local Authority Partner meetings so that they are made aware of the challenges to come from the Service.

Cllr Morgan asked whether the Service applies for any grants and was advised that WG give cash flat grants for National Resilience, Community Safety Work and Pensions.

Cllr Morgan enquired whether there would be an affect on staffing or buildings. The Treasurer reported that there was no provision for staffing or building work cuts and will maintain the cohort as planned.

Cllr Hughes asked whether there was a timeline of the final outcome of the National Statistics (Official Population Data). The Treasurer advised that they are awaiting this information from WG and once received he will share with Members.

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted the risks and uncertainties within the projections and approved the Strategy as the basis for financial planning over the Strategy period.

13.2 REVENUE MONITORING REPORT 2022/23

The Temporary Head of Finance, Procurement & Property presented the Revenue Monitoring report 2022/23 which details the annual revenue budget and associated forecasts for the year ending 31 March 2023.

Cllr Morgan asked if the Youth activities were now taking place in individual authority areas and AM Davies confirmed that they were all

back up and running after they had to be put on hold during COVID and this was also the case for the Cadets.

Cllr Buckley spoke about the current poverty issues affecting communities and whether in collaboration with Health Boards and or Housing Associations the Service could look to issue Air fryers as these have been shown to use a lot less electricity and be health beneficial. The Head of Service Delivery stated that heat detectors are now issued for kitchen use but this is something that could be raised with Welsh Government.

Cllr Buckley asked if the Training given to Wales and West Utilities by Devon FRS could be done by our Service and so bring in an income for the Service. This will be discussed with training as previously Domino Training was provided to the Company employees.

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted and agreed the content of the report.

13.3 CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT 2022/23

The Temporary Head of Finance Procurement & Property presented the Capital Monitoring Report for 2022/23 which provides details of the capital budget, transactions to date and the forecast year end position.

The Temporary Head of Finance, Procurement & Property advised that the trial for 2 properties to be fitted with solar panels has been put on hold as some further detailed work has to be completed first. It was further advised that all WDS and a number of RDS stations will be fitted with dual electric chargers. All the light vehicles will eventually be replaced with electric vehicles but there is currently a 70 week delivery time – there are 30 electric vehicles in Service.

RESOLVED THAT

Resolved that Members note the budget and progress of capital schemes and approve the alterations and associated movements in funding.

13.4 2021/22 ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW

The Temporary Head of Finance Procurement & Property presented the 2021/22 Annual Treasury Management Review and the results of treasury management activities for the ending 31 March 2022 which has previously been presented at the last Fire Authority meeting. She gave

a detailed overview of the report, including capital expenditure, borrowing and investments.

RESOLVED THAT

Members resolved to recommend that the Fire and Rescue Authority note the annual Treasury Management Review for 2021/22 and approve the actual prudential and treasury indicators set therein.

14. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

14.1 HEALTH CHECK OF PRIORITY ACTIONS AND Q1 PROGRESS AGAINST THE STATUTORY PI'S

The Head of Performance Planning went through the themes and improvement objectives with Members advising that there are 156 tasks linked to the eight strategic themes within the Plan which are updated quarterly updated by owners.

The Head of Service Delivery went through the Performance Monitoring Report stating that there had been an increase in Special Service Call that the Service has been receiving and that this was due to increase in the number of bariatric rescues and that they were tending to assist on a more regular basis with WAST. There has been an increase of deliberate fires and they continue to educate communities of the risks.

Cllr Powell asked if the reducing from 30 mph to 20 mph in urban areas was helping to reduce the number of collisions. The Head of Service Delivery informed the group that they continue to educate people to slow down and the benefits. However the reduction of speed may also impact on RDS turn out times. The Head of Service Delivery advised that a trial is currently being undertaken in Usk where the turn out time has been increased to 7 minutes.

The Chair asked what was the Service doing around Bonfire Night. The Head of Service Delivery confirmed that a lot of work is taking place on all stations; Operation Bang, advising people to go to organised displays, working with communities and other partners ensuring people understand the dangers and getting Risk Assessments done and removing any dangers to the public.

Each member will get a more localised report of their LA area after the meeting.

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted the Health Check of Priority Actions and Q1 Progress Against the Statutory Pi's.

14.2 AUDIT WALES FINAL AUDIT LETTER

The Treasurer presented the 'Notice of Certification of Completion of the Audit' from Audit Wales.

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted the contents of the Notice of Certification of Completion of the Audit' from Audit Wales.

15. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Temporary Director of Corporate Service provided Members with the Forward Work Programme for 2022/2023.

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted the Forward Work Programme for 2022/2023.

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

Cllr Morgan reported that she had recently attended Abertillery Fire Station and she was shown the Station Audit Report and she wanted her thanks noted for all the good work that the station has been doing.