

SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE, AUDIT & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 25 JULY 2022 AT IN MEETING ROOM 8 OR REMOTELY VIA STARLEAF

1. PRESENT:

Councillor	Left	
S Evans (Chair)		Torfaen
J Morgan (Deputy Chair)		Blaenau Gwent
I Buckley		Vale of Glamorgan
M Hughes		Bridgend
D Isaac		Merthyr Tydfil
M Al Nuaimi		Newport
B Proctor	10:55 hrs	Cardiff
C Wright		Caerphilly

APOLOGIES:

M Powell	Monmouthshire
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ABSENT:

D Parkin	Rhondda Cynon Taff
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OFFICERS PRESENT:- Temp ACO G Thomas – Monitoring Officer & Temp Director of Corporate Services, Mr C Barton – Treasurer, Temp DCFO D Rose – Director of Service Delivery, Mrs L Mullan – Temp Head of Finance, Procurement & Property, Mrs S Watkins – Deputy Monitoring Officer, Mr S Gourlay – TIAA Internal Auditor, Mr N Selwyn – Audit Wales Officer, Ms G Gillett – Audit Wales Officer, Ms J Morris – Audit Wales Officer, Mr C Rigby – Audit Wales Officer

2. 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.

The T/ACO Corporate Services declared a personal interest in a query raised by Members at the end of the meeting relating to the timeline of the advertising of the ACO and DCFO posts.

3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chairman's Announcements to record.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous Finance, Audit & Performance Management meeting held on 11 April 2022, were received and accepted as a true record of proceedings.

5. REPORTS FOR DECISION

5.1 REVENUE OUTTURN REPORT 2021/2022

The T/Head of Finance informed Members that subject to the external audit process the report outlined the revenue outturn position for the financial year end 2021/2022 and the resultant impact on reserves.

RESOLVED THAT

Following a question and answer session on issues relating to the retention of staff, Members agreed the outturn position and consequent transfer to usable reserves of the revenue surplus.

5.2 CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT 2021/2022

The T/Head of Finance informed Members that the presented report provided the capital outturn position for the year ended 31 March 2022, the financing arrangements and the budget slippage required to complete capital schemes in 2022/2023.

RESOLVED THAT

Following a question and answer session on specific projects and possible timelines, Members agreed to note the report and approved the budget slippage as detailed in Appendix 1 attached to the report.

5.3 STATUTORY AUDIT & ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The T/Head of Finance and Audit Wales Officers provided Members with their opinion on the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022, which included the statutory ISA260 report, the final audited statement of accounts and the letter of representation.

RESOLVED THAT

5.3.1 Members agreed to receive the ISA 260 report of the Appointed Auditor and approve the letter of representation contained therein.

5.3.2 Members agreed to approve the audited Statement of Accounts which were provided electronically.

5.3.3 For the benefit of new Members, the Treasurer provided a brief overview of the risks around the McCloud and Immediate Detriment pension cases.

The Audit Wales Officers took the opportunity to thank the Head of Finance and her team for all their help and support in completing the Annual Statement of Accounts.

6. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

6.1 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT & AUDIT ACTION UPDATE

The TIAA Internal Auditor presented a report which updated Members upon the progress being made against the Internal Audit Plan 2022/2023.

RESOLVED THAT

Following a question and answer session on the timings of specific audits, Members agreed to note the internal audit recommendations and work completed to date on the Internal Audit Annual Plan 2022/2023.

6.2 PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND BUSINESS PLAN ACTIONS REPORT, HEALTH CHECK 2021/2022

The T/ACO Corporate Services and Director of Service Delivery presented a report informing Members of the Business Plan Actions report, Health Check 2021/2022, for Quarter 4.

RESOLVED THAT

Following a question and answer session on issues with talent spotting and the possible risks around Officers retirement profiles, Members agreed to note the Business Plan Actions report, Health Check 2021/2022, for Quarter 4.

6.3 AUDIT WALES REPORT – JOINT WORKING BETWEEN EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Audit Wales Officer provided Members with an electronic presentation on 'Joint Working Between Emergency Services'.

RESOLVED THAT

Following a lengthy question and answer session on collaboration, Members agreed to note the electronic presentation.

The Chair thanked the Wales Audit Officer for addressing and answering the number of questions raised by Members.

6.4 AUDIT WALES PRESENTATION 'INTRODUCTION TO THE AUDITOR GENERAL FOR WALES & AUDIT WALES'

The Audit Wales Officers provided Members with a detailed electronic presentation on the work of the Auditor General for Wales and Audit Wales and highlighted some of the specific key areas relating to South Wales Fire & Rescue Service.

RESOLVED THAT

6.4.1 Following a question and answer session, Members agreed to note the electronic presentation on the work of the Auditor General and Audit Wales.

6.4.2 Following a request by the T/Monitoring Officer, Wales Audit Officers agreed to share and circulate a copy of the presentation to each of the Fire & Rescue Authority Members.

7. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The T/Monitoring Officer provided Members with the Forward Work Programme for 2022/2023.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed the content of the Forward Work Programme for 2022/2023.

8. 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.

ADVERTISING FOR ACO AND DCFO VACANCIES

Following a query raised by Members on the timeline of advertising for the ACO and DCFO posts, the T/ACO Corporate Services provided a brief overview of the process and confirmed that the ACO vacancy was in the process of being advertised, and the DCFO post would be considered in due course.