

## **SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY**

### **MINUTES OF THE FINANCE, AUDIT & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT MEETING**

**HELD ON MONDAY 5 DECEMBER 2022 AT  
IN MEETING ROOM 8 OR REMOTELY VIA STARLEAF**

#### **17. PRESENT:**

##### **Councillor**

##### **Left**

S Evans (Chair)

I Buckley

M Hughes

D Isaac

M Powell

Torfaen

Vale of Glamorgan

Bridgend

Merthyr Tydfil

Monmouthshire

#### **APOLOGIES:**

J Morgan (Deputy Chair)

M Al Nuaimi

D Parkin

B Proctor

C Wright

Mrs L Mullan

Mrs S Watkins

Blaenau Gwent

Newport

Rhondda Cynon Taff

Cardiff

Caerphilly

T/Head of Finance

Deputy Monitoring  
Officer

#### **ABSENT:**

**OFFICERS PRESENT:-** ACO G Thomas – Monitoring Officer & Director of Corporate Services, Mr C Barton – Treasurer, Temp AM C Hadfield – Temp Head of Risk Reduction, Ms J Sambell – Temp Senior Accountant, Mr S Gourlay – TIAA Internal Auditor, Mr C Rigby – Audit Wales Officer, Mr W Thomas – Head of Service Performance & Communication

#### **18. 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.

## **19. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair wished to record his thanks and appreciation to the Fire Cadets who recently attended a local Remembrance Day Parade, and was pleased to report they were all exemplary and well presented.

## **20. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous Finance, Audit & Performance Management meeting held on 10 October 2022, were received and accepted as a true record of proceedings.

## **21. REPORTS FOR DECISION**

### **21.1 REVENUE MONITORING REPORT 2022/2023**

The Senior Accountant informed Members that the Revenue Monitoring report provided details of the Annual Revenue Budget, forecasts and associated information for the year ending 31 March, 2023.

The Treasurer advised Members that the expected overspend would be considered in the Budget.

### **RESOLVED THAT**

Following discussion on the fluctuation in fuel prices, and the decrease in the underspend of the Apprenticeship Scheme, Members agreed to note the report and its contents.

### **21.2 CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT 2022/2023**

The Senior Accountant informed Members that the Capital Monitoring report provided details of the Capital Budget, transactions to date, and the forecast year end position for the year ending 31 March, 2023.

## **RESOLVED THAT**

- 21.2.1 Following a question and answer session on balancing fixed term contracts and the payment of goods, Members agreed to note the budget and progress of capital schemes and approved the alterations in Appendix 1 and associated movements in funding.
- 21.2.2 Officers agreed to amend the typing errors identified in Items 1.5, 2.1.4 and 2.2.2, contained within the report.
- 21.2.3 With reference to the purchase of DIM vehicles, Officers agreed to confirm the number of vehicles ordered.

## **21.3 REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET SETTING UPDATE REPORT**

The Treasurer presented a report which updated Members on preparations for the setting of the 2023/2024 budget, and to seek approval for the draft budget for consultation.

The report included the latest projections based on the Authority's plans and strategies as informed by the general financial and operational environment in which services were provided.

The report was built on the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) report that was considered by the Fire & Rescue Authority in September 2022, and by the FAPM Committee on 10 October, 2022. The report still indicated that the Authority's cost base would significantly increase both this year and next in response to the prevailing inflationary pressures in the economy.

The report now included the likely impact of population projections flowing from the data underpinning the Local Government Settlement which formed the basis of the distribution of the Fire Contributions budget.

The report updated the latest projections based on known changes around pay inflation, changes made by central Government, and those resulting from further work undertaken by officers of the Service as requested by Members.

## **RESOLVED THAT**

Following a question and answer session on the challenges in maintaining the On-Call establishment, Members agreed to note the continued risks and uncertainties within the proposed draft Revenue Budget, and to recommend it to the Fire & Rescue Authority as the basis of consultation.

## **22. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

### **22.1 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-TERM REVIEW REPORT 2022/2023**

The Treasurer informed Members that the Treasury Management Mid-Term Review report provided an update on the Authority's treasury activities for the period 1 April-30 September, 2022.

With reference to whether there were any restrictions on the amount of borrowing, the Treasurer advised Members that the Service sets their own restrictions with a long term borrowing strategy which includes a range of maturity dates set at various stages.

## **RESOLVED THAT**

Members agreed to note the report and treasury activity for the period 1 April-30 September, 2022.

### **22.2 AUDIT ACTIONS REPORT HEALTH CHECK 2022-2023 QUARTER 2**

The Head of Service Performance & Communication provided Members with a brief overview of the Audit Actions Report Health Check 2022/2023 Quarter 2.

## **RESOLVED THAT**

22.2.1 Members agreed to note the presented report and its contents.

22.2.2 With reference to the importance of inserting completion dates and decisions against each of the highlighted risks, Officers assured Members that all

recommendations were followed up on an annual basis by the Internal Auditor.

### **22.3 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT & AUDIT ACTION UPDATE**

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

#### **RESOLVED THAT**

Members agreed to note the Internal Audit recommendations and work completed to date on the Internal Audit Annual Plan 2022/2023.

### **23. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The 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.

### **24. 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.

### **25. REPORT FOR DECISION**

#### **25.1 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC BY VIRTUE OF SECTION 100A AND PARAGRAPHS 14 & 15 OF PART 4 OF SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED)**

A resolution to exclude the press and public by virtue of Section 100A and Paragraphs 14 and 15 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) was passed.

## **25.2 AUDIT WALES – CYBER RESILIENCE IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR**

The ACO Corporate Services informed Members that the confidential Audit Wales report provided learning from organisations that had been victims of cyber incidents. It was hoped that by sharing key messages the profile of cyber risks would be raised, and public bodies could learn from one another.

### **RESOLVED THAT**

Following lengthy discussion on the importance of staff receiving mandatory awareness training on issues relating to fraud, Members agreed to note the findings of the Audit Wales report attached at Appendix 1, and an update on cyber risk management within the Service be presented to the next FAPM Committee meeting.