

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

### **MINUTES OF THE FINANCE, AUDIT & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2020 VIA STARLEAF**

#### **24. PRESENT**

##### **Councillor**

S Evans (Chair)	Torfaen
S Bradwick	Rhondda Cynon Taf
DT Davies	Caerphilly
P Drake	Vale of Glamorgan
M Colbran	Merthyr Tydfil
A Hussey	Caerphilly
V Smith	Monmouthshire
M Spencer	Newport
D White	Bridgend

##### **APOLOGIES**

J Harries	Rhondda Cynon Taf
S Ebrahim	Cardiff
W Hodgins	Blaenau Gwent

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** DCO S Chapman – Monitoring Officer; Mr C Barton – Treasurer; Mr G Thomas – Head of Finance & Procurement; AM A Kibblewhite – Head of Operations; Mr S Franks – Audit Wales; Ms A Butler – Audit Wales; Mr S Gourlay – TIAA.

#### **25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

#### **26. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements from the Chair.

## **27. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 27 JULY 2020**

The minutes of the Finance, Audit & Performance Management Committee meeting held on 27 July 2020 were received and accepted a true record, subject to correction of Councillor Colbran's initial to 'M' in the final paragraph of page 8.

In addition, the Treasurer wished to bring to Members' attention that the sign-off of the Statement of Accounts has been deferred to the meeting of the Fire & Rescue Authority taking place next week, 28 September 2020.

## **28. HEALTH CHECK OF PRIORITY ACTIONS AND QUARTER 1 PROGRESS AGAINST THE STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

The Deputy Chief Officer presented the report which gives assurances to Members of the Authority and senior management within the Service on the progress towards achievement of the strategic themes for the period 1 April-30 June 2020.

It was noted that for the majority of the period in question, the population was in lockdown as a result of COVID-19 protective measures.

Under Strategic Theme ST01 – Keeping you Safe, Councillor DT Davies noted under Section 1.4 the statement that South Wales and Gwent Police have shown little interest in the receipt of information from the Joint Control Room relating to deliberate fire setters. The Deputy Chief Officer undertook to gain further information on the matter and forward to Councillor Davies.

In response to a further query, it was clarified that Care and Healthcare (CHC) as referred to in 4.3 of the report should read Continuing NHS Healthcare.

The Head of Operations provided Members with details of performance within the Strategic Performance Indicators for the period 1 April-30 June 2020, and provided clarity on certain aspects of the data in a question and answer session. She also undertook to forward to all Members a link to the Service's on-line home safety check booking form for onward sharing with home authorities.

The Chair thanked Officers for an informative report.

## **29. REVENUE MONITORING REPORT 2020/21**

The Head of Finance & Procurement presented Members with the revenue monitoring report for 2020/21 and provided details of the annual revenue budget and associated information for the year ending 31 March 2021. In addition, he advised Members that the Service continues to submit claims for the additional COVID-19 expenditure to Welsh Government on a monthly basis.

Cllr DT Davies instructed Officers to request Welsh Government to reconsider its stance on the COVID-19 related ICT expenditure.

### **RESOLVED THAT**

Members noted and agreed the report content.

## **30. CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT 2019/20**

The Head of Finance & Procurement provided Members with a detailed update on the capital monitoring report, including detail of the budget, transactions to date and the forecasted year end position. He noted the typographical error in the first sentence of 2.1.1 of the report which should read “£1.6 and £2 million respectively”.

### **RESOLVED THAT**

Members noted the budget and the progress of the capital schemes, and approved the alterations identified in Appendix 1 and the associated funding streams.

## **31. 2019/20 ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW**

The Treasurer provided Members with the opportunity to consider the results of treasury management activities for the year ending 31 March 2020, undertaken in accordance with the Authority’s approved Treasury Management Strategy.

### **RESOLVED THAT**

Following clarification of the wording of paragraph 2.3 of the Treasurer’s report, Members agreed to recommend to the Fire & Rescue Authority that they note the annual treasury management review for 2019/20 and approve the actual prudential and treasury indicators set therein.

### **32. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY, RESERVE STRATEGY AND BUDGET UPDATE**

The Treasurer provided Members with an update of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Reserve Strategy of the Authority together with an update on the Revenue Budget for 2021/22.

The Treasurer reminded Members that distribution of the Authority's budget across the 10 local authorities in South Wales is determined by population numbers. He reported that there is a significant rebasing of population figures through the Local Government Settlement which could affect the contributions budget quite significantly in the next financial year.

#### **RESOLVED THAT**

Following a question and answer session, Members agreed the report content as the basis of its financial planning framework, for consideration by the Fire & Rescue Authority.

### **33. AUDIT WALES REVIEW OF INVOLVEMENT**

The Audit Wales Officer provided a detailed report on the review of the Authority's approach and management of stakeholder involvement when proposing service and policy changes, and in the design of future activities. This included a detailed look at how the Authority involved Stakeholders in the development of the new Strategic Equality Plan and in the planning of public engagement events.

The review concluded that the Authority has a generally good approach to involvement with partners and communities but needs to improve its impact by evaluating current approaches to strengthen future activity.

#### **RESOLVED THAT**

Members noted the content of the report.

**34. AUDIT OF THE SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY  
2020/21 IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

The Audit Wales Officer updated Members on the issue of the Certificate of Compliance for the audit of the Authority's 2020/21 Improvement Plan.

**RESOLVED THAT**

Members noted the issue of the Certificate of Compliance for the audit of the Authority's 2020/21 Improvement Plan, which is incorporated into its Strategic Plan 2020-2030.

**35. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2021/21**

The Deputy Chief Officer presented the Forward Work Programme.

**RESOLVED THAT**

Members accepted the Forward Work Programme for 2020/21.

**36. TO CONSIDER ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN  
DEEMS URGENT (PART 1 OR 2)**

There were no items of business that the Chairman deemed urgent (Part 1 or 2)