

SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

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

**HELD ON MONDAY 13 DECEMBER 2021 AT
IN MEETING ROOM 8 OR REMOTELY VIA STARLEAF**

96. PRESENT:

Councillor

Left

S Evans (Chair)

M Colbran

P Drake

W Hodgins

A Hussey

S Morgans

V Smith

M Spencer

Torfaen

Merthyr Tydfil

Vale of Glamorgan

Blaenau Gwent

Caerphilly

Rhondda Cynon Taff

Monmouthshire

Newport

APOLOGIES:

W Hodgins

(Due to a faulty network
connection)

S Chapman

Blaenau Gwent

Monitoring Officer

ABSENT:

D White (Deputy Chair)

Bridgend

OFFICERS PRESENT:- Mrs S Watkins – Deputy Monitoring Officer, Mr C Barton – Treasurer, T/ACO G Thomas – Temporary Director of Corporate Services, Ms L Townsend – Accountancy Technician, Ms H Cargill – TIAA Internal Auditor

97. 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.

Councillor Morgans declared an interest in Agenda item 7 which related to properties within the Rhondda Cynon Taff Unitary Authority area.

98. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

• REPLACEMENT FOR COUNCILLOR EBRAHIM

Members were informed that due to the recent resignation of Councillor Ebrahim from the Fire & Rescue Authority, Cardiff Council had confirmed that Councillor De'Ath had been appointed as his replacement. Once the relevant paperwork had been completed, Councillor De'Ath was expected to commence his new appointment on 20 December, 2021.

• REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE – TORFAEN

The Chair informed Members that he had recently attended the Remembrance Day Parade in Torfaen, and was pleased to note that the Firefighter Cadets were also in attendance and were a credit to the Service.

99. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

- Finance, Asset & Performance Management Committee meeting held on 20 September, 2021
- Finance, Audit & Performance Management Scrutiny Group meeting held on 18 January, 2021
- Finance, Asset & Performance Management Scrutiny Group held on 11 October, 2021

The Deputy Monitoring Officer advised Members that at the last Finance, Asset & Performance Management Scrutiny Group meeting on 11 October, 2021, it had been unanimously agreed to add the following further recommendation to Item 7 within the minutes 'Property Asset Strategy 2021/22' report:-

7.3 *Members agreed that Local Authority Building Control Inspectors would be used when dealing with property issues.*

The Deputy Monitoring Officers assured Members that the minutes recorded on 11 October, 2021, had now been amended

100. REPORTS FOR DECISION

100.1 PROPOSED REFORMS AND NEW TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The ACO Corporate Services reminded Members that they would be aware that several reports on the proposed reforms and new Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny Committee had been presented to the Finance Audit & Performance Management Committee, and the Fire & Rescue Authority, for discussion and consideration.

RESOLVED THAT

Following lengthy discussion on the options for the Scrutiny Committee outlined in paragraphs 2.4 and 2.5 within the report, and on receiving further clarification and assurance from Officers, Members unanimously agreed for proposals to be presented back to the Fire & Rescue Authority.

100.2 REVENUE MONITORING REPORT 2021/2022

The Temporary ACO Corporate Services informed Members that the Revenue Monitoring report provided details of the annual revenue budget and associated information for the year ending 31 March 2022.

RESOLVED THAT

- 100.2.1 Members unanimously agreed to note and agree the content of the Revenue Monitoring report 2021/2022.
- 100.2.2 Following a question and answer session, Officers agreed to ensure the correct terminology was included in future reports.

100.2.3 Officers also agreed to provide Members with further details on why the figures for Auxiliary Reserves had decreased.

100.2.4 Following further discussion, Officers agreed to include details on environmental impacts within future reports.

100.3 CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT 2021/22

The Temporary ACO Corporate Services informed Members that the Capital Monitoring report provided details of the capital budget, transactions to date, and the forecast year end position.

RESOLVED THAT

100.3.1 Members unanimously agreed to note the budget and progress of capital schemes, and approved the alterations identified in Appendix 1 attached to the report, and associated movements in funding.

100.3.2 Following a query raised by Councillor Smith, Officers agreed to find out what a 'Hose Inflation Kit' does, and to provide a response in due course.

100.4 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET SETTING UPDATE REPORT

The Treasurer informed Members that the presented report included an update to the draft Revenue Budget proposals considered by the Finance, Audit & Performance Management Committee and the Scrutiny Group at their previous meetings, together with the associated Capital Programme.

At its December meeting, the Fire & Rescue Authority would consider a draft budget for consultation during December and January, prior to setting its final budget in February 2022.

The report included a proposed Revenue Budget of £79,304,057, representing a 2.29% increase over that set for 2021/22.

RESOLVED THAT

Members unanimously agreed to note the update to the proposed Revenue and Capital Budgets and recommended them to the Fire & Rescue Authority as the basis for consultation.

100.5 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-TERM REVIEW REPORT 2021/22

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, 2021.

RESOLVED THAT

Members unanimously agreed to note the report and treasury activity for the period 1 April – 30 September, 2021, and recommended that the Fire & Rescue Authority do the same.

The Chair thanked Officers for their excellent report

101. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

101.1 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT & AUDIT ACTION UPDATE

The Internal Auditor presented a report which updated Members upon the progress being made against the Internal Audit Plan 2021/2022.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to note the internal audit recommendations and work completed to date on the Internal Audit Annual Plan 2021/2022.

101.2 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2021/2022

The Temporary ACO Corporate Services provided a brief overview of the Forward Work Programme for 2021/2022, and advised Members that the 'Audit & Plan Scheme Updates' would be deferred to the next meeting in March 2022.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to note the Forward Work Programme for 2021/2022.

102. 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.