

Due to the current heightened security level at all our premises, Members are reminded to wear their identity badges whilst attending meetings. Any visitors must produce photographic identification at Reception.

FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY SUMMONS

SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

You are required to attend a meeting of the Finance, Audit and Performance Management Committee to be held on:

Monday, 10 October 2022 at 1000 hours

**In person at South Wales Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters,
Forest View Business Park, Llantrisant, CF72 8LX**

or

Remotely via Microsoft Teams - <https://bit.ly/FAPM-Committee-10-10-22>

Please ensure you join the meeting 15 minutes prior to meeting time

**Any issues please contact
01443 232000 and ask for Member Services**

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest

Members of the Fire & Rescue Authority are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare both orally and in writing any personal and/or prejudicial interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, the Fire & Rescue Authority's Standing Orders and the Members Code of Conduct.

3. Chairperson's Announcements

4.	To receive the minutes of;	
	• FAPM Committee held on 25 July 2022	5
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12.	To consider any items of business that the Chairperson deems urgent (Part 1 or 2)	131

Signature of Monitoring Officer:



MEMBERSHIP

Councillors:

J	Morgan	Blaenau Gwent
M	Hughes	Bridgend
C	Wright	Caerphilly
B	Proctor	Cardiff
D	Isaac	Merthyr Tydfil
M	Powell	Monmouthshire
M	Al Nuaimi	Newport
D	Parkin	Rhondda Cynon Taf
S	Evans	Torfaen
I	Buckley	Vale of Glamorgan

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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

ABSENT:

D Parkin Rhondda Cynon Taff

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.

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THIS REPORT IS NOT EXEMPT AND IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN**SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY**AGENDA ITEM NO 5
10 OCTOBER 2022

FINANCE, AUDIT & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

**MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY, RESERVE STRATEGY AND
REVENUE BUDGET UPDATE REPORT****THIS REPORT IS FOR DECISION**REPORT APPROVED BY THE TREASURER
PRESENTING OFFICER TREASURER**SUMMARY**

This report presents the updated Medium-Term Financial Strategy for 2022/23 to 2026/27 for approval. It includes budget projections based on the Authority's plans and strategies informed by the general financial and operational environment in which services are provided.

The Strategy indicates that the Authority's cost base will significantly increase over the currently approved budget in response to the general inflationary pressures in the UK economy. This will present a challenge to our funding councils next year.

The Strategy is drawn up in the light of rapidly changing economic projections and few firm resource commitments beyond the current year. This background introduces significant financial risks in the Strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Members note the risks and uncertainties within the projections and approve the Strategy as the basis for financial planning over the Strategy period.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The Authority operates a Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) which provides a backdrop to the planning of resource allocation and spending. This report updates the MTFS (Appendix 1) and associated planning assumptions and discusses the immediate challenges facing the Authority both in terms of its currently approved budget and its budget setting for next financial year.

- 1.2 The Authority follows appropriate Codes of Practice in managing its finances including the maintenance of an MTFS underpinned by its Treasury Management Strategy. The Authority's latest external audit report confirms that its governance, reporting and financial management arrangements are appropriate and functioning well.
- 1.3 The Finance, Audit and Performance Management Committee considers the MTFS each year throughout its budget planning cycle. Due to the timing of meetings this year, the Fire Authority is receiving this report in advance of the FAPM however, the FAPM will consider this report on 10th October to allow detailed consideration of the content together with any updated position statements. Further work is planned to refine the detail of next year's budget proposals.
- 1.4 The upheaval arising from the recent Covid19 pandemic and other factors such as Brexit have presented significant challenges to the Fire Authority and the wider public sector. These challenges have been successfully negotiated.
- 1.5 New challenges have now arrived in terms of the fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the impact this has had on worldwide energy costs. This in turn has a knock-on effect on the cost of food and other goods and services. Pay inflation is the inevitable impact of rising retail price indices. The Bank of England's response to higher inflation has been to increase UK interest rates.
- 1.6 As a public sector body with a substantial workforce, these inflationary cost pressures will bear heavily on our budget in key areas.
- 1.7 Few firm forward financial plans have been released by central government whether nationally or regionally in the wake of the current cost of living crisis. Forward planning with any accurate assessment of external factors is therefore very challenging.
- 1.8 Early in 2022, Welsh Government released its settlement for local government for 2022/23 with an unprecedented double digit increase together with indicators of future increases in Welsh funding. This very welcome settlement and the future positive projections were however made ahead of the RPI projections of 10% - 20% now being discussed and certainly ahead of the pay negotiations now ongoing.
- 1.9 The MTFS can only plan based on knowns or reasonably informed assessments and accordingly, no attempt has been made to forward project resources beyond simple benchmarks. In the same way, the cost base of the Authority is given context in the risk section of the MTFS.

- 1.10 The MTFS attached at Appendix 1, identifies the operational context in which the financial management of the Authority takes place currently and sets out the challenges, risks and responses which are relevant in the short to medium term where this is possible.
- 1.11 It is not anticipated that the review of governance and funding undertaken by Welsh Government will significantly change the structure, activities and funding of Fire Authorities in the near future. There is an ongoing discussion with Welsh Government regarding the broadening of the role of firefighters but currently, no clear parameters exist to base assumptions on.

2. ISSUE / PROPOSAL

- 2.1 The MTFS has been constructed to provide a framework for financial planning and set the basis for annual budget setting. The MTFS considers resource availability and costs.

2.2 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENT

2.2.1 In recent years, the Welsh Government has started to increase resources within the local government settlement. In the current financial year, Welsh Government gave Councils in South Wales an unprecedented 10% growth in resources.

2.2.2 Welsh Government indicated in its settlement that resources in Wales could increase by 3.5% in 2023/24 and 2.4% in 2024/25. This is likely to be significantly less than the cost pressures within local government in those years.

2.2.3 In previous years, the Fire Authority has been informed of the consistent pattern of increases in local taxation which assists in budget setting for Council Services which includes Fire and Rescue Services. Council tax yield has typically increased by an average of between 4% and 5%. Councils continued the trend of increases in Council Tax albeit at a lower level than previously (2.2% in the current year). Council Tax still accounts for around one quarter of their net spending.

2.3 WELSH GOVERNMENT FUNDING

2.3.1 The Authority relies on several streams of Welsh Government funding to support its budget. As in previous years, no forward commitment has been given to support these key income streams. Pension costs, national initiatives and community safety activities all rely heavily on this cash and this lack of long-term commitment

represents a risk. Including pensions and PFI grant, the funding amounts to around £20m per annum.

2.3.2 In most years, Welsh Government provides a cash flat grant profile. This of course represents real terms cuts as costs increase. Likely pay inflation in 2023/24 will again erode the value of these grants.

2.4 **BASE BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS**

2.4.1 The most significant part of the Authority's budget is employee costs representing around 75% of spend. The previous MTFs was drawn up based on long term average pay awards of 1.5% per annum. It is important to note that the Authority undertook to refund to constituent councils any over-provision for pay awards within the 2020/21 budget and this was achieved by setting a lower than planned pay budget in 2022/23. This would have been a cost neutral equation had pay awards maintained a 'normal' trajectory.

2.4.2 Given the recent green book (support staff) pay offer represents an increase of around 7%, the Authority's current year budget will be under significant additional pressure this year. If this were agreed and replicated in the grey book (uniformed staff), the additional unbudgeted costs could be well over £2m. The Authority's expected budget outturn for last year delivered an underspend that enables the Authority to absorb these increased costs rather than passing them on to the constituent councils. The Authority cannot however address the higher base budget that will result and accordingly, next year's budget will have to pick up this increase. There will of course be a further inflationary pay rise next year and this is modelled at 3%.

2.4.3 Further pressures and complications exist in the employee budget due to a variety of legal actions ongoing regarding the Firefighters' Pension Fund. Successful national legal challenges resulted in firefighters being given the option to return to their legacy pension schemes resulting in potentially higher costs and / or compensation. Due to the complexity of the cases involved and the time taken to frame new legislation, it is difficult to accurately assess any impact on the Fire Authority. This is compounded by an ongoing pension scheme valuation which is attempting to assess the impact of the resolution of these cases. At present, the accounts of the Authority include actuarial assessments of the long-term liabilities of these cases but the annual impact on the budget is uncertain.

2.4.4 The employee budget is built up based on the full establishment as agreed by the Fire Authority and includes the recently completed job

evaluation exercise. Overall, the Authority could see an increase in its pay budget of £5m per annum.

- 2.4.5 The Premises budget includes provisions to cover additional building maintenance in 2023/24 (£270k). Energy costs are expected to significantly increase (£440k) because of worldwide market price fluctuations despite the work the service is undertaking to reduce carbon emissions. Increased costs associated with the new Emergency Services Network project (£600k) are assumed over a two-year period from 2025 however, an increase in the costs of the existing Firelink service (£100k) is also built into next year's budget.
- 2.4.6 The Authority commenced a process of investment in its ICT infrastructure some years ago and this investment will continue into 2023/24. This is being compounded by anticipated inflationary rises in licences and support fees (£270k). Investment in essential operational equipment is included in next year's budget (£175k). Other supplies budgets reflect inflationary increases or reductions according to planned activities but where inflation is applied, we anticipate higher increases than normal resulting from current RPI levels. The Authority's insurance cover is currently being re-tendered and cost increases are anticipated (£200k).
- 2.4.7 Transport costs continue to be targeted for reductions by reducing vehicle movements and reducing the use of fossil fuels across the fleet. The introduction of electric vehicles and cleaner diesel vehicles will underpin this trend however, fossil fuel costs have increased substantially as have vehicle parts costs ((£180k).
- 2.4.8 Capital financing costs are assumed to increase annually (4%pa) reflecting the approved capital programme with the overall exposure to these costs monitored through the Authority's Treasury Management Strategy. Recent interest rate rises do not directly impact the Authority's budget as much of its debt is long term. There are opportunities to increase returns on invested cash, but this will depend on the Treasury Management policy from year to year. Generally, the avoidance of borrowing is still more cost effective than investing.

2.5 BUDGET PROJECTIONS

- 2.5.1 The MTFs currently shows an increase in budget next year of 9.1%. When the Authority notified its constituent councils of the current year budget, councils were reminded that this budget was suppressed by the pay 'refund' mentioned in para 2.4.1 above. Accordingly, their budget planning should have assumed an

increase above the norm. That said, 9% will not be in their plans but neither will their own significant cost pressures which are on the horizon.

2.5.2 The Authority has been working with North Wales FRS and Mid & Wales FRS to arrive at broadly consistent planning assumptions. All three FRSs are also working with the WLGA to communicate to Welsh Government the scale of cost pressures across Wales for this and next year. Our initial planning work shows a consistent pattern of budget pressures across Wales.

2.5.3 This report is not asking Fire Authority to confirm next year's budget at this point. The December meeting of the Fire Authority will consider recommendations from the FAPM Committee and will consult with constituent councils prior to a probable decision in February 2023.

3. IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Community and Environment

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	No
Welsh Language	No
Well-Being Of Future Generations (Wales) Act	No
Socio Economic Duty	No
Sustainability / Environment / Carbon Reduction	Yes
Safeguarding	No
Consultation and Communications	Yes
Consultation with Representative Bodies	No
Impact Assessment	No

3.1.1 The MTFs includes assumptions of savings derived from Carbon Reduction initiatives.

3.1.2 The MTFs includes budget projections that will form the basis of consultation with the ten constituent authorities.

3.2 Regulatory, Strategy and Policy

Legal	No
Financial	Yes
Procurement	No
Corporate Risk	No
Information Management	No
Data Protection / Privacy	No
Health, Safety and Wellbeing	No

Governance & Audit	No
Service Policy	No
National Policy	No

3.2.1 The MTFS includes detailed plans of the Authorities finances and is prepared in compliance with several regulatory Codes of Practice.

3.3 Resources, Assets and Delivery

Human Resources and People Development	No
Assets and Resources (Property/Fleet/ICT/Equipment)	No
Service Delivery	No
Procurement	No
Budget Revenue/Capital	Yes

3.3.1 The MTFS forms the basis of the revenue and capital budget planning for the coming financial year.

4. EVALUATION & CONCLUSIONS

4.1 The MTFS attached at Appendix 1 includes projections that result in annual increases in budget as follows. Members should note the significant health warnings regarding the projections in the MTFS at this time.

Financial Year	Increase in Budget
23/24	9.1%
24/25	2.0%
25/26	2.1%
26/27	1.7%

4.2 The MTFS will be revisited annually and updated as more information becomes available. Further reports on the detail of next year's budget will be presented to the FAPM Committee at future meetings.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 That Members note the risks and uncertainties within the projections and approve the Strategy as the basis for financial planning over the Strategy period.

Contact Officer:		Chris Barton Treasurer	
Background Papers		Date	Source / Contact
None			
Appendices			
Appendix 1	Medium Term Financial Strategy 22/23 – 26/27		

APPENDIX 1

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

Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 – 2026/27

September 2022

About SWFRS

South Wales Fire and Rescue Service is one of three Fire and Rescue Services in Wales and is one of the largest fire and rescue service areas within the UK.

Service and Incident Profile

The Service is coterminous with the ten unitary authorities in South and South East Wales, covering an area of 2,800 square kilometres of rural, coastal and urban areas. The Service serves a population of over 1.5 million.

The Service operates out of an HQ, Training Centre, joint control facility and 47 Fire Stations some of which are permanently crewed and others crewed by on-call firefighters. The Service has over 300 operational vehicles including fire appliances, off road vehicles, light vehicles and boats. The service takes around 35,000 emergency calls per year, responding to around 17,000 incidents of which a third are fires. Of these fires, around 70% are deliberate. Besides fires, the Service also responds to road traffic collisions, flooding and water rescues, animal rescues, medical emergencies and environmental incidents.

The Service proactively seeks to reduce risk mainly by prevention through annual early intervention, education and engagement activities. Approximately 20,000 home fire safety checks are undertaken and 50,000 children and young people are met face to face as part of educational and engagement events. As a result of this activity, the Service has been successful in significantly reducing the number of fires over recent years.

Strategic Plan

South Wales Fire and Rescue Service's vision is set out in our strategic plan for 2020-30. This Medium-Term Financial Strategy underpins that vision.

The plan outlines the strategic direction and explains how the Service intends to meet its challenges to continue to deliver a high quality service that meets the needs of our communities. The long-term strategic Themes and shorter term Priority Actions within the Plan will enable South Wales Fire and Rescue Service to not only deliver a sustainable service but also support our partners in the wider public sector.

The Service's vision remains the key focus; "making South Wales safer by reducing risk." The Service recognises that safer communities can only be achieved by

challenging and improving the way it works, through a safe and competent workforce and by effectively managing its resources.

At times of austerity, there is a temptation to concentrate on costs and reduced budgets with no regard to the quality of services delivered. However, the Service has made the decision to concentrate on how improvements can be made with the strongly held belief that efficiencies and savings will result. The key strategic themes are

Key Strategic Theme	Activity
Keeping you Safe	Raise your awareness of risks through education and information, to protect you from harm.
Responding to your Emergency	Respond quickly and effectively when you need us.
Protecting our Environment	Make sure that we are always planning and working in a way that helps sustain the planet for our future generations.
Working with our Partners	Work with our partners to design services that are delivered and targeted based on a joint understanding of risk, to deliver on our shared outcomes.
Engaging and Communicating	Talk to and involve our communities and people so that we can deliver our services to effectively meet your needs.
Valuing our People	Support a diverse workforce that represents your community, is well trained and motivated to deliver our service.
Using Technology Well	Continually look to use the right technology where it can improve our service to you.
Continuing to Work Effectively	Make sure that our service provides value for money and that we are clear about how we are performing.

This financial strategy sets out the approach and identifies how the Service intends to plan and manage its resources in the light of the Government's approach to public sector spending. It also focuses on how the Service will remain viable and respond to the various risks and pressures which it will face.

In the past two years, the nature of public services and public sector finance has undergone a paradigm shift resulting from the Covid19 pandemic. Whilst it is clear the Government has sought to utilise public sector spending and borrowing, to deal with the crisis and to ease the economic impact of it, there is no clear picture yet emerging of how this situation will translate into future spending and resourcing plans.

The emergent threat of climate change not only shapes the way in which the Service conducts its business but also the responses and challenges which the Service is likely to have to meet to protect the population of South Wales. Against this background of urgent change, the MTFs can at best only estimate the likely costs and resources available to fund services in Wales over the coming years. The MTFs will be revisited as and when significant Government announcements are made.

Key Achievements

The Service has been successful in significantly reducing the number of fires and fire related deaths and injuries over recent years. For example, between 2011/2012 and 2016/2017, fires reduced by 33.82%. This has been achieved against a background of reducing resources whilst at the same time, maintaining fire cover and continuing the standards of service expected by the public of South Wales.

Financial Context

Fire and Rescue is a devolved function and Welsh Government therefore have national oversight of the service. The South Wales Fire & Rescue Service is one of three Fire and Rescue Services operating in Wales. That said, both the national UK environment and devolved Welsh Government impact on the finances and operations of the Service.

The UK Context

The Service's financial position is impacted by the wider global economy and environment and this strategic plan is written in this context. However, the Service cannot accurately predict or influence the factors at play at any precise time and therefore plans based on the best information available to it.

The International Monetary Fund had judged that the outlook for growth was improved in advanced economies however, uncertainty around the global outlook is heightened at present, associated with the ongoing war in Ukraine and political tensions in the rest of the world. UK Government policy on spending has been the key determinant which has set the scene for resources in the UK public sector.

The latest spending review of the UK Government set out parameters for public spending over the medium term, but these have all been surpassed by the response to the Covid pandemic. Whilst there have been some signals that austerity is easing, there is little optimism to believe that this is a move away from the overall downward pressure on spending especially given the massive increase in government borrowing in the last two years.

Significant uncertainty remains about the short and long-term financial effects of "Brexit" even though apparent deals have now been secured for the short to medium term.

The recent cost of living crisis has introduced another level of uncertainty over government finances with no clear picture yet about its resolution.

Wales

Overall spending limits set in Westminster determine the Barnett Formula consequential for resources in Wales each year.

With no Comprehensive Spending Review having taken place in the last two years, there are no forward indicators for spending. Announcements of additional spending pre Covid19 resulted in a largely positive financial settlement for Wales. The budget agreed by Welsh Government impacts the funding of unitary authorities (which in turn meet the costs of Fire and Rescue Services) together with community safety and other

sector specific initiatives which are directly funded through specific grants and contributions.

Welsh Government has now obtained the powers to vary income tax. This MTFS does not assume that these powers will be used to increase revenue and therefore funding.

Unitary Authority Funding

Unitary authorities contribute to the Fire & Rescue Service budget and in consequence, their funding settlement is relevant to the Service. In recent years, the trend in reducing public expenditure has resulted in downward pressure in the un-hypothecated grant resources distributed to unitary authorities. This trend was reversed somewhat in the last few years and 2022/23 saw an unprecedented double digit increase in funding. Announcement regarding the overall Welsh budget were included in the current year settlement but with no guarantees.

Current Cost & Budget Structure

The starting point for any Financial Strategy is to understand the cost base of the Service.

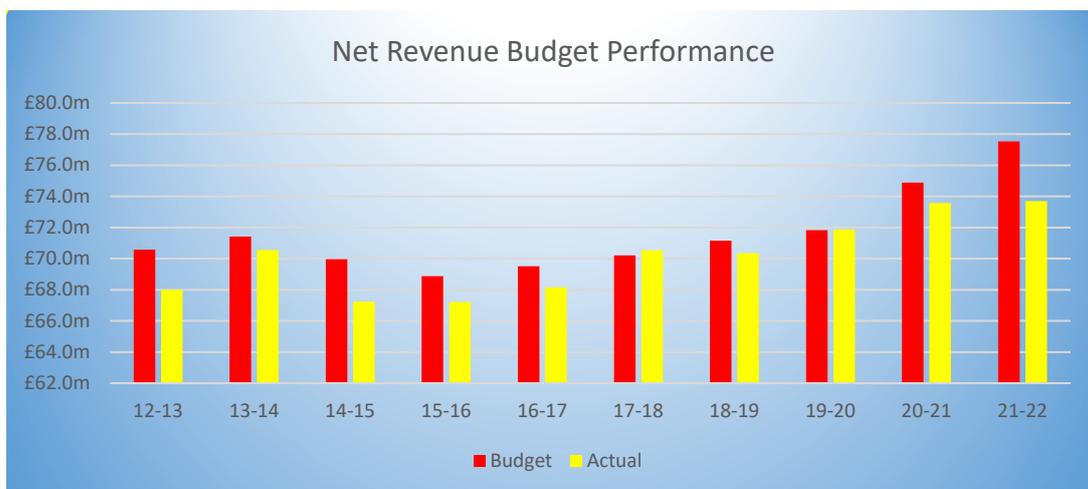
Revenue Budget

The Service's net annual revenue budget in 2022/23 is around £79m, the equivalent of less than £50 for each resident of South Wales. It equates to around 0.5% of the total public service spending in Wales each year.

The table below shows the breakdown of the annual budget in 2022/23

	£000
Employees	51,882
Indirect Employee costs	11,600
Premises	5,654
Training	1,771
Supplies & Services	5,337
Transport	1,478
Contracted Services	941
Capital Financing	4,874
Gross Budget	83,537
Income	-4,233
Net Budget	79,304

The following chart shows the movement in the net revenue budget since 2008/09 together with the actual spend for each year.

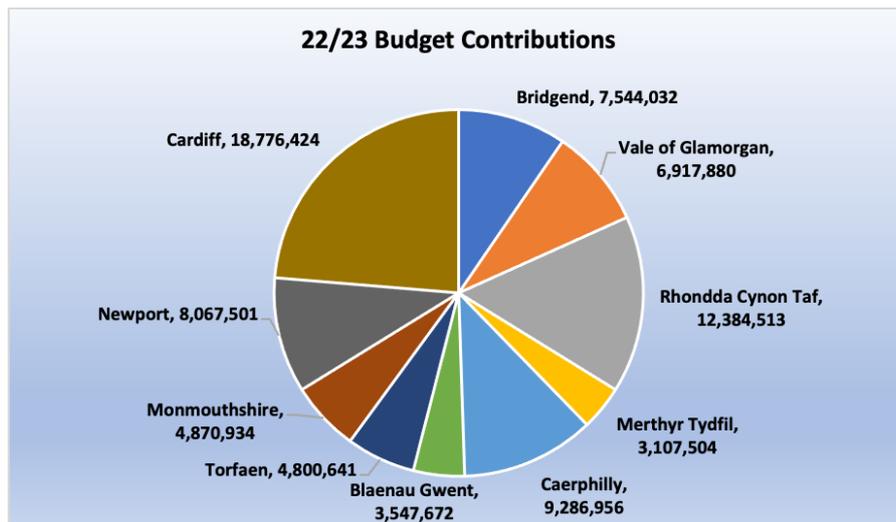


The Service has proactively managed to stay within its budgets and has a history of good financial management despite numerous challenges to its operations including a sustained period of industrial action. Surpluses generated from the revenue budget are utilised to invest in Service Improvement, asset renewal and efficiency projects which in turn keeps the requirement for annual funding at a lower level than would otherwise be the case.

An analysis of the outturn consistently reveals that staffing budgets are well managed with underspending particularly in the retained and whole-time firefighter categories. This partly stems from an ongoing struggle to recruit, train and retain enough staff whilst at the same time losing experienced firefighters to retirement and other full-time employment.

SWFRS Revenue funding

By virtue of the 1995 Fire Combination Orders, Fire and Rescue Services in Wales are funded from contributions made by constituent councils within their area. The Fire and Rescue Service determines its budget requirement and notifies each constituent council of its contribution which are proportionately split based on population. The current distribution of funding in South Wales is show below.



The Welsh Government recently undertook a review into the governance and funding of fire authorities in Wales. To date this review has not resulted in any significant proposals to change the structure, composition or funding of fire authorities. Should any legislative change be forthcoming, it could significantly impact this MTFs as drafted.

During 2019, HM Treasury amended the SCAPE rate used to underpin public sector Pension Fund Valuations. As a result of this exercise, a significant increase in employer's pension contributions occurred. In Wales, specific grant funding of over £3m was provided to the Authority to meet these costs. With the current shift in UK economic activity, there is a further prospect of rate changes with similar consequential financial impacts.

The Fire Fighter' Pension Fund (FFPS) continues to be a national issue with several recent court cases lost by the Government likely to increase costs in the medium to long term. The resolution to these cases and the future shape of the FFPS is an ongoing process.

Forecast Cost Changes

There are several known factors which impact the cost base of the Authority. The main categories are outlined below.

Inflation

The financial strategy includes inflation where this is a contractual obligation but assumes that other spending is cash limited. The exceptions include items where prices are generally more volatile than CPI such as vehicle fuel, energy costs and insurance premiums where specific allowances are made. Total inflation of around £0.5m per annum is assumed in a normal year however, the current RPI rate on specific items such as energy, fuel and external supplier contracts will see this treble next year.

Pay

The Authority is part of the collective bargaining arrangements for 'grey book' (fire fighters) and 'green book' (non-uniformed) employees and therefore implements

respective national pay awards as part of its pay policy arrangements. The Authority abides by the statutory Minimum and Living Wage legislation. The cost of pay inflation (including related pension overheads) is usually assumed to be around £0.8m per annum. This is currently assessed with reference to average pay settlements achieved of around 1.5% per annum. As a result of significant increases in RPI, the annual increase in budgeted employee costs could be as high as £5m, around 7%. The MTFs Assume that pay inflation will return to normal levels in the medium term. The wider role of firefighters is still subject to ongoing discussion with representative bodies and the outcome of this activity could impact pay levels. The MTFs assumes that such costs agreed on a national basis would be accompanied with funding from Welsh Government. This situation will be monitored on an ongoing basis.

Pensions

The Authority operates two pension schemes for the benefit of its employees and makes employer contributions to each. Uniformed staff are eligible to join the national Fire Fighters' Pension Scheme (FFPS) and non-uniformed employees are eligible to join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). The schemes are administered by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council on behalf of the Authority. Employees are automatically enrolled in the relevant scheme unless they opt out.

Regular actuarial valuations are carried out to determine employer contribution rates to the Schemes. The LGPS is a funded scheme unlike the FFPS which is unfunded and underwritten by Welsh Government.

- The LGPS employers' pension contribution rate is currently 15.2% of gross pensionable pay.
- The FFPS employers' pension contribution rates vary as there are three schemes in operation. Rates are currently between 26.6% and 29.3% of gross pensionable pay. The strategy assumes that Welsh Government will continue to fund any scheme deficit over and above the employee and employer contributions and that it will continue to fund SCAPE costs arising from national Government changes.

The cost of the FFPS is in a state of flux currently with the government having lost legal cases around the tapering transitions from the 1992 to the 2015 scheme. A solution is now emerging following Government proposals, but it is unclear what the impact on the Service's base budget will be into the future.

Service Demand

The strategy recognises that there is an increasing population trend in South Wales particularly within the urban areas of Cardiff and Newport. Pressures on the Authority's services will increase because of this and other factors.

According to Welsh Government statistical modelling, the population of South Wales has grown by around 6.5% in 10 years and growth forecasts are assumed to continue at a steady rate. This rate includes disproportionate increases in certain at-risk groups such as the elderly. As demographics change, the need for fire cover and other rescue services change.

An average growth in population of around 0.66% per annum is not reflected in an annual need to increase expenditure. However, the Authority's cost base may eventually need a step change in response to overall demand. Such changes are

traditionally dealt with through ongoing reviews of fire cover and other necessary service provision.

Demographic trends towards and ageing population with more people living alone and with life limiting health conditions are likely to increase demand on services. Environmental and legislative changes also drive the demand for services in areas such as flooding, wild fires, road traffic collisions and bariatric rescue. The Authority's partnership arrangements also result in an increased number of service calls such as co-responding to medical emergencies. The current climate of terror related incidents also demands a significant training and response capability in the fire service. These specific areas are considered in terms of budget provision as and when spending pressures crystallise. The recent heightened concerns around climate change are likely to accelerate the need for investment in specific service areas.

Capital Financing Costs (Debt repayments and interest)

The strategy includes an increase in the Authority's estimated capital financing costs of £0.2m reflecting the approved capital programme. This programme together with the Treasury Management Strategy of the Authority determines the principal debt repayments and interest costs which will fall on the revenue budget. The programme includes a range of investments aimed at maintaining, renewing and supplementing the Authority's assets to achieve its strategic objectives. Affordability is a key component of the capital programme.

The Authority does not receive separate funding for capital borrowing costs and as such, all borrowing costs must be met from its core revenue budget.

Specific Projects

The nature of the Fire & Rescue Service entails participation in collaborative regional and national initiatives, some of which are sponsored by central government. Changes to the costs and funding within these projects can impact the budget of the Authority. One project is currently being monitored in this regard.

- Emergency Services Mobile Communications Platform (ESMCP) is a project aimed at rolling out a new Emergency Service Network (ESN) across the UK. Currently Welsh Government supports the cost of this network in Wales through financial contributions. This equates to around £0.6m per annum in South Wales. The project aims to not only modernise and improve the network but also to reduce ongoing costs. Until the future cost of the ESN is known for certain, the financial impact of the project is uncertain. Further delays in the delivery of this project will be monitored in terms of their financial impact. The MTFs includes a provision for cost increases totalling £600k over two years to accommodate this risk. Delays in this project are resulting in increased costs of the existing FireLink solution and accordingly, provision is included to meet these costs.

Forecast Funding Changes

Both national and local changes to funding can affect the Service's income streams.

National Funding Changes

The Government's policy direction pre-Covid has shown a long-term trend of reduction in public spending but there was a reverse in this trend in the last three budget years.

That said, the scale of the recent increase is small in the context of the major economic challenge arising from Covid19.

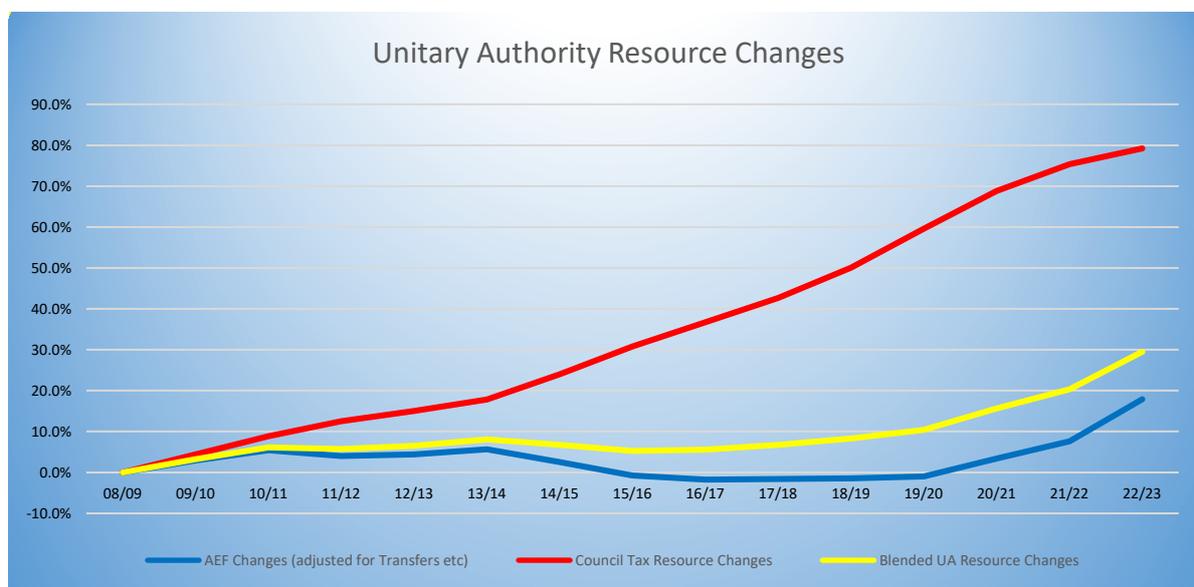
The Russian invasion of Ukraine has resulted in a further level of uncertainty and the resulting cost of living crisis will impact government spending plans.

It is almost impossible to make meaningful assumptions beyond the steady state position given the unprecedented level of change in the country's financial position. In one scenario, continued reinvestment to drive economic development and to meet public service demands could be forecast, in another, an even more prolonged period of public sector austerity to reduce the hitherto unseen levels of government borrowing.

Welsh Local Authority Settlement Funding Assessment

The outcome of the budget decisions of Welsh Government in terms of health, social care and education will be major determining factors given the relative size of those budgets. In the last two years, Welsh Government was able to divert resources to local authorities for the first time in a decade.

Aside from external funding from Welsh Government, Unitary authorities also have revenue raising powers through council tax which they can use to fund local services. The Office of Budget Responsibility forecasts 4% increase in council tax revenues which mirrors the increases seen over the austerity period in South Wales. The chart below shows the historical changes in unitary authority funding within South Wales. This increase was lower in 22/23 mainly due to the unprecedented increase in council grant announced by Welsh Government. Increases are likely to return to their previous stable level.



Beyond 2022/23 projections are solely based on indicative Welsh Government budget announcements.

Grants and other Funding Streams

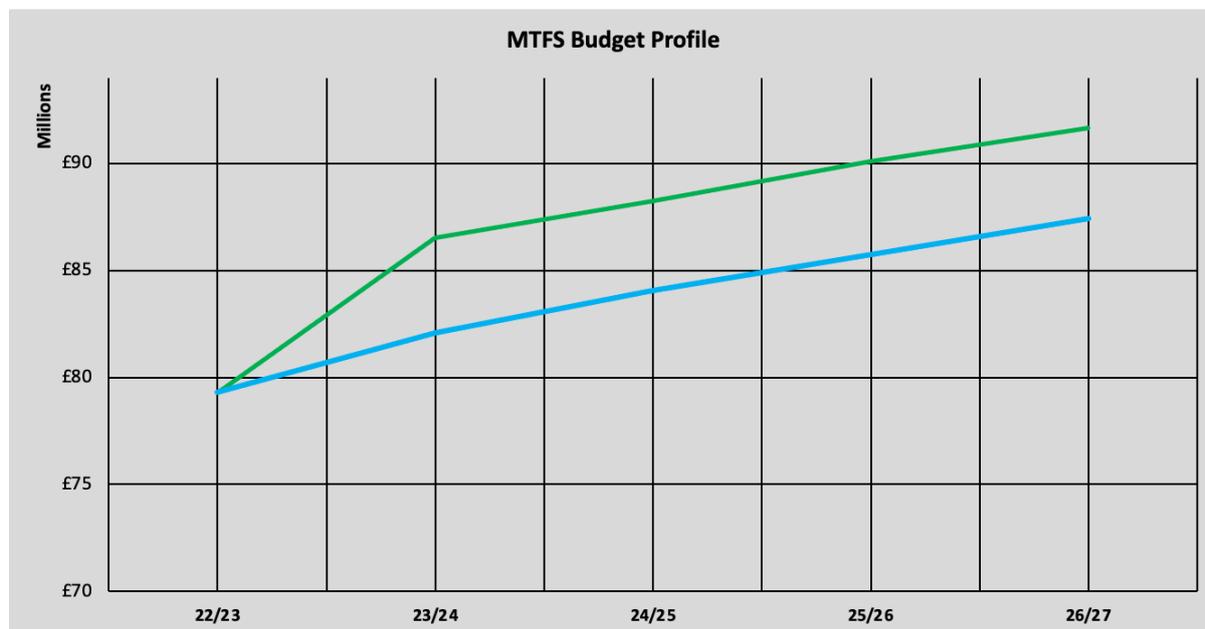
As Welsh Government departments have seen their own budgets cut, there has been a regular trend of reductions or withdrawals of specific grant funding streams. The Service has seen these cuts already in the Community Safety initiatives it operates.

Given the trend and commentary to date on grant funding, it is reasonable to assume that these funding sources may be further withdrawn over the medium to longer term however, in advance of any announcements, it would be wrong to assume such reductions yet. The table below outlines the revenue grants and contributions currently in payment together with the basis of forecasts.

Grant	2022/23 £'000	Received from	Forecast Basis
COMMUNITY SAFETY	330	Various	Continue - cash flat profile
NATIONAL RESILIENCE/USAR/MTA	1,339	WG	Continue - cash flat profile
FIRELINK	632	WG	Continue - cash flat profile short term until ESMCP implemented
PENSION SCAPE GRANT	2,947	WG	Continue – Estimated costs met by WG
PENSION TOP UP GRANT	14,645	WG	Continue – excess funding required met in full by WG
PFI	965	WG	Pre-defined grant profile
TOTAL FUNDING 22/23	20,858		

Projected Spend v Resources Assumptions

The graph below sets out the Service's estimated budget profile. It includes for illustration purposes, projections of resource availability at the Welsh Government indicative levels or +2% where there are none.



If local government resources were restricted to the levels of the Welsh Government announcement, the worst-case position would be a shortfall in funding of around £4.2m per annum by the end of the plan term. The most obvious factor in this projection is the necessity for central government to solve the funding problem arising from the 'cost of living' crisis now driving local authority spending. This assumes of course that the Service would only request funding in accordance with the assessed worst case local authority settlement. In practice, the Service must request the resources it requires to fund its operations regardless of settlements. That said, the Service has always striven to take account of the climate of public sector budgets in which it operates and to reduce the burden on its constituent councils wherever possible.

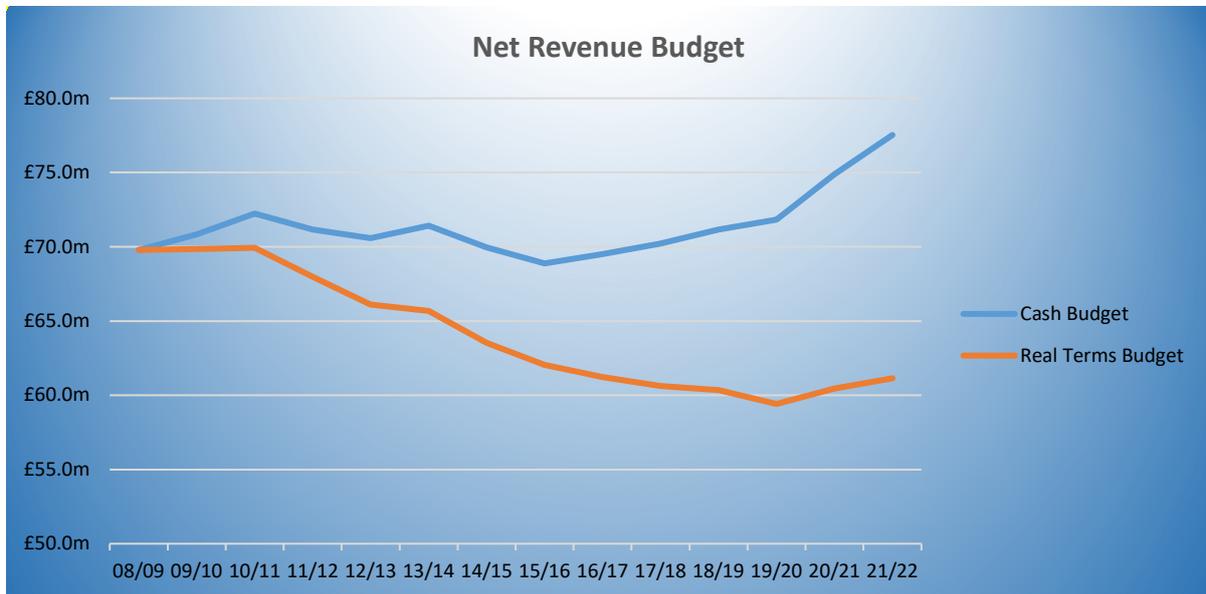
Welsh Government funding of the ongoing costs of firefighter pensions and the currently grant funded initiatives is critical to financial position of the Fire Authority.

Medium Term Financial Plan

To address the budget gap identified, the Service intends to manage down risk, unnecessary response, inflationary and other budget pressures whilst maximising income and making business processes as efficient as possible. Some of this work is part of an ongoing business delivery model whilst some of it depends on specific project work targeted at efficiency and savings.

Finance and Efficiencies

Since the commencement of the current economic downturn in 2008/09, the Authority has delivered approximately £16m real terms budget reduction. The chart below shows the trend in the revenue budget. It represents an estimated real terms reduction of around 12% in 13 years



The Authority has taken several approaches in relation to savings and efficiency over this period including reviews of fire cover, the Shaping Our Future Programme and various efficiency projects focussed on reducing expenditure and increasing income. If there is a continued downward pressure on expenditure, it will become increasingly difficult to identify further financial savings without significant changes in what services the Authority provides and how it delivers them.

This could have implications for the public, businesses, operational partners and employees. To deliver the Authority's plan to reduce risk, services that are no longer affordable or less impactful may be delivered differently or, in some cases, stopped. Such changes would not be considered or implemented without Fire Authority approval following consultation and engagement.

Fire Cover Reviews

The Service continues to review fire cover across the whole South Wales Area. The most recent whole authority review resulted in the closure of several retained stations and a reduction in crewing at other sites. As part of that review, several identified station amalgamations and moves are still being held in abeyance. Availability of potential sites has created a delivery problem, but these options remain open. The next planned move is to relocate and replace the New Inn station in Torfaen.

Shaping our Future Programme

The Authority devoted resources to reviewing parts of the organisation to identify improvements and efficiencies. Whilst not formally operating under this name in future, the programme continues to look at operational and back-office business processes. As part of this coming budget cycle, consideration of areas for investment

and savings within the structure of the Authority's staffing is being undertaken. These will be the subject of reports to the Fire Authority for consideration once developed.

Sustainability & Carbon Reduction

The Authority has recognised the need to respond to Climate Change both in service provision but also to minimise its own impact on the environment and climate. The formalisation of a strategy to address these issues has been completed and action plans and projects are now being developed and implemented. The aim is to reduce the Service's carbon footprint whilst at the same time delivering economic benefits through cost savings. The MTFs includes assumptions of financial savings generated by this activity particularly in energy costs, transport and supplies.

Accounting Measures

The Authority, through its Finance, Asset & Performance Management Committee, has reviewed its budget for opportunities to create savings / budget reductions. This has included contingencies, inflation allowances, vacancy provisions, method of manpower budgeting and treasury management practice. The Authority will continue to monitor these aspects of the budget to identify further opportunities to drive down the underlying resource requirement where this is prudent and sustainable.

Reserves Policy

Under the 2003 Local Government Act, the Treasurer is required to make a statement to the Authority on the adequacy of reserves as part of the annual budget setting process. It is good practice for the Authority to have a reserves policy which is reviewed regularly. The Authority follows this practice, ensuring that liabilities and risks are adequately managed from a financial perspective.

General Reserves

General reserves are maintained to ensure financial stability in the longer term thus allowing the Authority time to plan, mitigate and deal with future financial challenges. The reserve policy includes an assessment of financial risks and a quantification of those risks where this is possible. The overall value of general reserves held reflects the value of assessed risks, the overall quantum of the budget and previous experience of variations resulting from volatility in specific areas.

Due to the ongoing austerity measures facing the public sector in the UK, the financial risks in the overall budget remain high and the Authority is maintaining general reserves at a healthy level to reflect this. Fire Services in the UK remain under threat of industrial action which represents a further risk to continued service provision.

The financial strategy is predicated on no planned use of general reserves to fund ongoing revenue spending. The Authority regards this as an unsustainable financial planning parameter and is in accordance with the CIPFA Financial Management Code.

Earmarked Reserves

The Authority creates, maintains and utilises earmarked reserves to fund specific projects and liabilities as they are developed or identified. An overall change management reserve is maintained to fund projects aimed at increasing efficiency and

improving or changing services. The Authority has little recourse to capital funds aside from borrowing and as such these earmarked reserves are also used to assist in meeting the financial demands arising from larger projects.

Reserve	Balance at 31/03/22 £000	Purpose
General Reserves	3,000	General financial resilience
Change Management Reserve	10,255	To fund projects aimed at efficiency, service improvement and change
PFI Equalisation Reserve	3,504	To balance out timing difference in grants and costs of the PFI Training Centre project at Cardiff Gate
Managed Under Spend Reserve	115	To meet costs of ongoing projects falling into the next financial year
Joint Control Lease Reserve	300	To finance the contribution to the Joint Control Facility in Bridgend
Total Revenue Reserves	17,174	

Treasury Management Strategy

The objective of the Authority's treasury management is to ensure that the Authority's cash, borrowing and investments are appropriately and efficiently managed within agreed financial and legislative parameters.

The Authority is required to have regard to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Codes covering such activities. In accordance with the Code, the Authority procures and retains the services of an external Treasury Management Advisor.

Reports on the Authority's Strategy and agreed parameters are approved prior to the commencement of each financial year. A half year progress report is made during the year and an annual report is received at the completion of each year end outlining performance and compliance.

Temporary borrowing is undertaken to fund short term cash flow deficits with long term borrowing being used to fund the Authority's capital requirements. Given the recent history of low interest rates, the Authority continues to pursue a policy of utilising internal cash balances (Internal borrowing) to minimise external interest costs. Forecasts for the UK and World economy are kept under review to determine if this strategy should change in response to potential interest rate rises.

The Authority's Capital Financing Requirement is the measure of its need to borrow to fund its capital requirements. This is forecast at £46.7m at March 2022 with external borrowing being estimated at £35.2m. The difference of £11m represents internal borrowing and the exposure of the Authority to increasing interest rates should it need to borrow externally. This exposure is forecast to remain constant to March 2024.

Exposure to increasing interest rates is mitigated by having a portfolio of external loans at fixed rates maturing over a range of short, medium and long dates. The

profile of the Authority's debt maturity provides certainty over borrowing costs with around 50% maturing after 10 years or more.

Investment activity is minimised by the current borrowing strategy. However, when cash flow dictates, short term cash investments are made to approved counterparties to generate income.

Further detail on the relevant forecasts can be found in the Authority's approved Treasury Management Strategy.

Asset Management Plan

The Authority operates within fire and rescue stations, offices, workshops, training facilities and control room accommodation. At these sites, to assist us in delivering our service to the public, we also hold many assets, ranging from our fleet of emergency response and support vehicles, operational plant and equipment, ICT equipment and other minor assets (such as office and station furniture, specialist clothing etc.).

For us to properly manage these assets it is necessary for the Service to have an Asset Management Strategy. This ensures that our assets are still fit for purpose and relevant for evolving service needs and changing legislative requirements. In addition, as a large public sector owner of assets there is an overarching requirement for us to ensure value for money in the management and maintenance of these assets. To this end, our Asset Management Strategy determines the high-level priorities where financial resources are to be targeted to meet service requirements.

Our Asset Management Strategy is supported by several management plans which provide the detail upon how our assets will be managed. These include:

- Land & Buildings
- Fleet
- Plant & Equipment
- ICT
- Minor Assets
- Procurement

These Operational Equipment Plans are an essential tool in how we manage our operational equipment assets. Regular reviews of our equipment are essential to ensure that it is still fit for purpose and suitable for our evolving service needs and changing legislative requirements.

As part of the public sector there is a responsibility for us to ensure value for money is obtained when we procure and maintain operational equipment. We also have a duty to ensure the health and safety of operational personnel using the equipment and that the equipment we provide is fit for purpose.

Capital Programme

Capital investment in assets is required to maintain an effective operational response and accordingly a planned capital programme exists. The Fire Authority has little recourse to capital funding other than from self-financed borrowing and capital receipts from the disposal of surplus assets and accordingly, the financing costs of the

programme fall on the revenue budget. Affordability is therefore key in making decisions about the level of investment that can be undertaken.

The programme contains elements to fund new or replacement assets as well as repairs and preventative maintenance for existing assets. The programme broadly covers the following categories of investment:

Property	Site acquisitions, new build, refurbishment and planned maintenance
Vehicles	Operational appliances and light vehicles
Equipment	Operational equipment including PPE
ICT	Hardware and software

Collaboration

Collaborative working with partner agencies is seen as a priority. This includes other emergency services, local authorities and the third sector in Wales but also other service providers on a national level. This collaboration delivers efficiency but also resilience which is especially important in a world subject to emerging global threats such as climate change and terrorism.

The service continues to seek other collaborative opportunities to improve outcomes for the population of South Wales but also to make efficiency savings.

National Issues Committee and Welsh Government (NIC)

All three Fire and Rescue Authorities in Wales have one common objective which is a safer Wales. The NIC was formed to actively promote and enable collaboration between the Services but also across the wider Welsh public sector. It also aims to achieve objectives detailed in Welsh Government strategic policies and programmes.

The aim of the NIC is to deliver measurable improvements, including greater efficiency and a more citizen focused service. There are currently eleven work streams:

- Business continuity
- Control
- Community risk reduction
- Common & specialist services
- Fleet & transport
- Health & safety
- Human resources
- ICT (shared services)
- Operations
- Procurement
- Training & development

Partnership with other 'blue light' services

There are obvious synergies between the work of the Service and that of other 'blue light' services across South Wales. Emergency services are often attending the same incidents in the same localities and can in certain circumstances provide resources to assist one another. These resources include employees, property and other assets.

Co-location of services within properties has begun to achieve cost efficiencies. A good operational example is Abertillery Fire Station which is now a tripartite facility housing police, fire and ambulance personnel.

The service is currently engaged with Mid and West Wales in delivering a joint control facility within the South Wales Police HQ. This facility was developed with a business plan to save around £1m per annum in running costs.

Recently the Service has been trialling an emergency medical response service. Fire service personnel and assets are now responding to certain categories of medical emergencies alongside paramedics and ambulances.

Partnership with local authorities and the third sector

The Service often comes face to face with the same service users of local authorities and the active third sector operating in the area. This provides opportunities to join up service provision when interfacing with service users and members of the public in many communities.

Prevention activities are key in reducing risks for everybody within the Service Area and activities are now focussed on providing information and advice and sharing information across a wide range of operational front-line services.

Workforce Strategy

The Authority employs around 1,800 staff as both operational firefighters and a range of professional and supporting roles. The nature of the Service means that 75% of expenditure is on staff or staff related budgets and there is a high expenditure on training and related matters.

The Service is part of collective bargaining agreements with both uniformed (grey book) and non-uniformed (green book) Trade Unions. Staff communication and engagement is high on the priorities of the Service to ensure staff fully understand the plans, rationale and motives of the Service.

Given the high percentage of staff costs, efficiencies or budget cuts inevitably impact on staffing levels. The Service tries to avoid redundancies wherever possible by using retirement and natural staff turnover to reduce numbers if required.

The Service has recently implemented its new Job Evaluation Scheme for Green Book staff which provides a sound basis for future assessments of salary levels.

The Service has obtained Investors in People (IIP) accreditation and has also achieved a new award focusing on staff wellbeing. The Service has received a Gold People Award and a Silver Wellbeing Award for its supportive culture, passion to improve and develop, focus on wellbeing and a commitment to protecting the communities of South Wales.

Risk Management

The Fire & Rescue Service National Framework for Wales and the Wales Programme for Improvement Framework requires the Service to consider risk management whilst

discharging its statutory duties and consider the risks facing the organisation when making strategic decisions.

Risk Management Framework

A risk is an event that has the potential to help or hinder the achievement of a strategic objective or the delivery of core business. All risks are rated as manageable (low), material (medium) or significant (high).

Directors, department heads and team leaders are responsible for identifying risks during the business planning process and taking the appropriate actions to manage or mitigate risk within their areas. Only risks that impact upon the achievement of a strategic objective or delivery of core business are monitored via the Corporate Risk Register. The Senior Management Team formally reviews the Corporate Risk Register on a regular basis and endorses the inclusion of any new or emerging risks identified.

Financial Risks

The Service's current and future financial position and adequacy of resources are subject to regular review.

Budget monitoring is regularly undertaken with resources prioritised on key risk areas. Monitoring operates on a devolved and centralised model with budget holders across the Service at various levels of the organisation. The Service's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations set out procedures, roles and responsibilities to ensure accountability.

Key specific financial risks within the Strategy and Plan include:

- The national economy and public finances
- The level of interest rates and the cost of borrowing
- Variations in Inflation assumptions - 1% of pay equals £0.6m and 1% of price equals £0.2m
- Failure to deliver or late delivery of budget savings
- Project delays
- Withdrawal of key funding streams by Government
- The cost of pensions

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THIS REPORT IS NOT EXEMPT AND IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN**SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY**AGENDA ITEM NO 6
10 OCTOBER 2022

FINANCE, AUDIT & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

REPORT OF TEMP ASSISTANT CHIEF OFFICER CORPORATE SERVICES

REVENUE MONITORING REPORT 2022/23**THIS REPORT IS FOR DECISION**

REPORT APPROVED BY TEMP ASSISTANT CHIEF OFFICER CORPORATE SERVICES

REPORT PRESENTED BY TEMP HEAD OF FINANCE, PROCUREMENT & PROPERTY

SUMMARY

The Revenue Monitoring Report provides details of the annual revenue budget and associated information for the year ending 31 March 2023.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Finance, Audit and Performance Management Committee note and agree the report content.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This revenue budget for 2022/23 was approved by the Fire and Rescue Authority on 14th February 2022 and this report presents the changes since.
- 1.2 Appendix 1 details the original budget, a revised budget to reflect authorised virements, transactions to date i.e., Actuals, the forecast position and variance analysis, i.e., the over or under spend on the revised budget. The revenue monitoring report has been presented inclusive of grant transactions for improved clarity.
- 1.3 The reserve statement at Appendix 2 presents the potential year end position for scrutiny and financial planning purposes.
- 1.4 Appendices 3 and 4 detail grant funded initiatives and the impact on revenue budgets. As mentioned above, all grant related transactions have been incorporated into the revenue monitoring position so as to present a full financial picture.

2. ISSUE / PROPOSAL

- 2.1 There is a projected £935k overspend which comprises of a £985k overspend on the employee budget being offset by a £50k underspend against non-employee related spending. Included within these figures is the overspend on grant funded initiatives which is currently forecast at £15k and as detailed in the supporting appendices.
- 2.2 The following narrative highlights the most significant changes since previous reporting.

2.2.1 EMPLOYEE COSTS - £985k overspend

Employee costs are forecast to be £887k more than budgeted with the latest establishment figures shown below. Forecast costs include an average pay award across all salary scales of 5% against the 1.5% increase initially budgeted.

Establishment figures (FTE) at July 2022

	Strength	Budgeted
WDS	845.00	792.00
RDS (100%)	318.48	426.40
Control	63.71	35.50
Support Staff	262.24	272.74
Fire Cadets	50.62	85.00
Auxiliary Reserve	64.00	84.00

Total Leavers & Joiners April 2022 to July 2022 (Headcount)

	Starters	Leavers*
Control	4	2
Support Staff	12	9
RDS	35	19
WDS	0	13
Auxiliary Reserve	0	3
Fire Cadets	0	1
Volunteers	1	0
Total	52	47

*Includes new starters or leavers to the service, not additional contracts

Ill health pension costs are currently forecast to be £51k more than budgeted based on the actual number of ill health retirements since budget setting. It is worth noting that any additional ill health retirements that occur throughout the year will impact on the position further.

Travel and subsistence costs have seen an increase of £47k against budgeted costs due to the removal of Covid-19 restrictions. This has led to an increase in mileage and accommodation costs with more staff travel and attendance at conferences, seminars and training courses.

2.2.2 PREMISE COSTS - £15k overspend

Increasing Firelink costs are forecast at £98k more than at the time of budget setting which is being offset by charges for National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) being forecast to be £72k less than budgeted.

2.2.3 TRAINING COSTS - £20k overspend

This overspend has been forecast and will be met from carry forward reserves set aside from 2021/22 as Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) training could not be completed as planned before 31st March, 2022.

2.2.4 SUPPLIES AND SERVICES - £119k overspend

Equipment costs are forecast to overspend by £100k due to additional planned projects since the budget setting process. This includes the purchase and replacement of flash hoods along with the installation of defibrillators outside stations for public access.

An overspend against external funding of £15k is included within these figures, and information on this can be found in greater detail in the supporting appendices.

2.2.5 CONTRACTED SERVICES - £88k overspend

The contract payment with Securitas for the annual retainer of incident commanders has increased by £79k since budget setting. This increase should be offset by savings within the salary budget as a greater staffing contingency is included within the agreement of the contract renewal.

2.2.6 CAPITAL COSTS - £124k underspend

The decrease is due to a reduction in capital costs than budgeted and a reduction in the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) charge. This is dependent on the capital forecast and is as detailed within the capital monitoring report with the reduction largely attributable to slippage of projects into 2023/24.

2.2.7 INCOME - £177k additional

Bank Interest rates were zero at the time of budget setting therefore, as interest rates have increased, additional income is anticipated of £109k. Any further changes to interest rates will impact on this and will be reported throughout the year.

An additional £55k is expected from MWWFRS in relation to Joint Control costs based on the latest projections and relates to costs that are to be shared 50/50 in line with the collaboration agreement.

3. IMPLICATIONS

An overall projected overspend on the revenue budget equating to £935k.

3.1 Community and Environment

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	No
Welsh Language	No
Well-Being Of Future Generations (Wales) Act	No
Socio Economic Duty	No
Sustainability / Environment / Carbon Reduction	No
Safeguarding	No
Consultation and Communications	No
Consultation with Representative Bodies	No
Impact Assessment	No

3.2 Regulatory, Strategy and Policy

Legal	No
Financial	Yes
Procurement	No
Corporate Risk	No
Information Management	No
Data Protection / Privacy	No
Health, Safety and Wellbeing	No
Governance & Audit	No
Service Policy	No
National Policy	No

3.3 Resources, Assets and Delivery

Human Resources and People Development	No
Assets and Resources (Property/Fleet/ICT/Equipment)	No
Service Delivery	No
Procurement	No
Budget Revenue/Capital	Yes

4. EVALUATION & CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The revenue budget for 2022/23 is £79.3 million with a further £2.2 million of grant funding. The overall revenue end of year position is forecast at £82.4 million, which would result in an overspend of £935k. This includes grant funding overspends of £15k.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 That the Finance, Audit and Performance Management Committee note and agree the report content.

Contact Officer:	Lisa Mullan Temp Head of Finance, Property & Procurement	
Background Papers	Date	Source / Contact
Capital Monitoring Report	2022/23	Temp Head of Finance, Property & Procurement

Appendices	
Appendix 1	Revenue Monitoring 2022/23 (10.10.2022)
Appendix 2	Reserve Statement 2022/23 (10.10.2022)
Appendix 3	Grant Monitoring Report 2022/23 (10.10.2022)
Appendix 4	Grant Monitoring Report 2022/23 – Table (10.10.2022)

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REVENUE MONITORING 2022/23
Appendix 1
Revenue Monitoring 2022/23 (10.10.2022)

SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE								
BUDGET MONITORING 2022/23								
	Original Budget 2022/23 £	Revised Budget (vired budget) 2022/23 £	Original Revenue Grant Funding 2022/23 £	Total Revenue Budget 2022/23 £	Actual Spend at 26.07.22 £	Revenue Forecast at 31.03.22 £	Over/Under Spend Against Revised Budget £	Over/Under Spend %
Employee Costs								
Salaries, NI & superann.	62,247,239	62,247,239	937,612	63,184,850	20,439,147	64,071,394	-886,543	-1.1%
Pensions (ill health)	849,601	849,601	0	849,601	212,078	900,502	-50,901	-0.1%
Travel and Subsistence	385,000	385,000	0	385,000	110,206	432,324	-47,324	-0.1%
Total Employee Costs	63,481,840	63,481,840	937,612	64,419,452	20,761,430	65,404,220	-984,768	-1.2%
Premises Related Expenses	5,654,123	5,654,123	20,016	5,674,139	1,120,246	5,689,115	-14,976	0.0%
Training Expenses	1,771,002	1,763,963	99,917	1,863,880	132,061	1,883,687	-19,807	0.0%
Supplies & Services	5,336,442	5,343,482	1,015,635	6,359,117	2,374,818	6,478,363	-119,246	-0.2%
Transport Related Expenses	1,477,793	1,477,793	98,568	1,576,361	452,795	1,586,196	-9,836	0.0%
Third Party Payments (Contracted Services)	941,296	941,296	65,794	1,007,090	299,233	1,095,470	-88,380	-0.1%
Capital costs / leasing	4,874,253	4,874,253	0	4,874,253	58,795	4,749,934	124,319	0.2%
Contingency	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Expenditure	83,536,749	83,536,749	2,237,542	85,774,291	25,199,379	86,886,985	-1,112,694	-1.4%
Income								
Employee Related	-3,108,266	-3,108,266	0	-3,108,266	-780,084	-3,159,678	51,412	0.1%
Lease Car Contributions	-100,500	-100,500	0	-100,500	-33,306	-97,831	-2,669	0.0%
Co-Location Re-imbursement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Other Income	-1,023,926	-1,023,926	0	-1,023,926	-314,324	-1,152,649	128,723	0.2%
Total Income	-4,232,692	-4,232,692	0	-4,232,692	-1,127,714	-4,410,159	177,467	0.2%
NET BUDGET / FORECAST 2022/23	79,304,057	79,304,057	2,237,542	81,541,599	24,071,665	82,476,826	-935,227	-1.2%
Local Authority Contributions	-79,304,057	-79,304,057	0	-79,304,057	0	-79,304,057	0	0.0%
External Funding (WG)	0	0	-2,237,542	-2,237,542	0	-2,237,542	0	0.0%
OVERALL REVENUE OVER / UNDERSPEND							-935,227	
Key								
■	Overspend							
■	Underspend							

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REVENUE MONITORING 2022/23
Appendix 2
Reserve Statement 2022/23 (10.10.2022)

Reserve	Purpose and Control	Balance at year start	Transfers in and (out)	Balance at year end	Variations arising between budgeted and actual levels of reserves
General	To cover general financial risks including council funding, grants, inflation and interest.	-3,000,000	0	-3,000,000	
Managed under spends	To meet costs associated with rolling programmes of expenditure incomplete at year end. Controlled via routine budget monitoring procedures.	-114,906	71,260	-43,646	Spending against carry forward requests within revenue
Change Management	Costs of change arising from 'Shaping our 'Future' programme, investment in change projects to improve service and / or reduce spend.	-10,255,147	-71,260 835,227	-9,491,181	Carry forward reserves transferred from Managed Under Spends Revenue underspend and transfer of annual joint control lease costs
PFI Equalisation	To meet future costs of the Training Centre PFI project	-3,503,807	235,109	-3,268,698	Current figures which may change slightly with indexation
Capital Receipts	To meet costs of the capital programme. Reserve applied as receipts are generated	0	0	0	All capital receipts received in year will be used to fund capital expenditure
Joint Control Lease Reserve	To meet the lease costs over an eight year period (from 2017/18)	-300,000	100,000	-200,000	Annual Joint Control lease costs
TOTAL		-17,173,860	1,170,336	-16,003,524	

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REVENUE MONITORING 2022/23
Appendix 3
Grant Monitoring Report 2022/23 (10.10.2022)

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 This report presents the grant position for the 2022/23 financial year. Information on initial grant awards paired with the forecast spending will provide members with the cost of running the various grant funded initiatives in addition to the impact over spending has on the revenue and capital budgets.

1.1.1 FIRE CRIME

The Community Safety department is comprised of many different initiatives, Fire Crime being one of those which is funded by Welsh Government. The grant funds the cost of a police secondment, the lease of three vehicles and salary costs. The Fire Crime team are assigned in patrolling high-risk areas of fire crime to deliver safety advice. The areas of focus are Operation Bang which covers Halloween and Bonfire Night, and Operation Dawns Glow which concentrates on the lead-up to and over the Easter period.

1.1.2 HFS STOCK

Community Safety receives grant funding towards the purchase of Home Fire Safety stock to be delivered to the homes of South Wales, particularly aiming to provide safety measures to vulnerable people and is issued according to individual needs. Items include smoke alarms, fire retardant bedding, heat detectors and other life-saving equipment.

1.1.3 YOUTH

Youth combines both the Phoenix and Crimes & Consequences department and is also funded by Welsh Government. The Youth initiative is centred on encouraging teamwork, raising self-motivation, developing communication skills and achieving positive outcomes. The purpose of each department:

- Phoenix – provides an opportunity for both primary and secondary schools, colleges, alternative education agencies and pupil referral units to refer young people to a five-day interactive course to learn about the FRS; who we are, what we do and how we engage with the communities we serve.
- Crimes & Consequences – aimed at young people who may be on the cusp of offending or at risk of re-offending, this initiative aims to engage and educate in the dangers of arson, car crime and anti-social behaviour.

1.1.4 INNOVATIONS & DIVERSIFICATION / MOMENTUM

Innovations and Diversification is an initiative aimed to help victims of Domestic Violence attend sessions where families in a similar

situation can feel comfortable, make new friends and build confidence in a safe environment. A grant from Welsh Government allows the Community Safety team to run a course titled 'Momentum' twice during the year. As part of the grant an Occupational Therapist is seconded from Aneurin Bevan and supports the initiative on an all Wales basis.

1.1.5 **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

The Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent provides a grant to fund an Anti-Social Behaviour and Deliberate Fire Reduction Practitioner with an aim to improve community safety within the Gwent area. The post holder works with young people who may be at risk of being involved in offences, and the outcomes expected to be achieved include a reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour, improving community wellbeing and educating individuals to be able to make positive choices.

1.1.6 **NATIONAL RESILIENCE**

Funding for National Resilience is received from Welsh Government and covers a variety of areas including Mass Decontamination and HVP training, specialist training such as confined space and USAR timber shoring, and the long-term maintenance capability of NR vehicles.

1.1.7 **MTA**

The grant funding from Welsh Government for Marauding Terrorist Attack (MTA) allows the delivery of extensive training to individuals with the outcome of ensuring an efficient response to a possible MTA incident within Wales.

1.1.8 **USAR**

Welsh Government funding enables specific training requirements to be met which ensures Wales have a specialist USAR team with the ability to respond to a range of incidents including missing persons, wildfire, flooding, major fires and rescues from height/water.

1.1.9 **SECONDMENTS**

Reimbursement of salary related costs are currently being received from numerous sources due to the secondment of some SWFRS personnel.

1.1.10 **CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

To support climate change and the move to a circular economy in Wales, where waste is avoided and materials are kept in use for as long as possible, grant funding from Welsh Government has enabled SWFRS to phase out single use plastic.

Previous funding helped with the introduction of aluminium water bottles to each employee and has contributed to the purchase of water butts fitted to frontline appliances and the supply of plumbed in water coolers at all 47 operational fire stations.

The balance of funding has been carried forward to continue to support the rental costs of the water coolers. This has dramatically reduced the amount of plastic water bottles bought by the service and previously issued to stations.

1.1.11 COVID-19 RELATED FUNDING

Funding is received directly from the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust, Aneurin Bevan UHB and Cardiff & Vale UHB to reimburse salary incurred costs in relation to the volunteers working with the ambulance service and working at the UHB's vaccination centres in relation to Covid-19. Although income is still being received, this stream of funding is declining as a sense of normality is returning to day-to-day life.

1.1.12 FF APPRENTICES

Aside from gaining firefighter skills at Cardiff Gate, new recruits to the service also attend The Vale and Cardiff College to learn basic skills to enhance their duty as a firefighter. Funding is received directly from the college to reimburse salary costs of the recruits whilst attending the course.

1.1.13 CYBER TRAINING

Grant funding from Welsh Government has been received to assist in the training of ICT personnel to help enhance the knowledge around a cybersecurity program which would lead to an increase in cyber resilience.

1.1.14 AFAN PROJECT

The SWFRS Wildfire Team have participated in a European Government funded project where the aim was to create a European wildfire expert knowledge-sharing network focused on fire risk analysis and risk reduction, named Advanced Fire Analysis Network (AFAN).

Funding will cover salary, travel and accommodation costs.

1.1.15 WALES & WEST UTILITIES

Funding has been secured from Wales & West Utilities to trial a new deaf alarm system. Properties in need of this system will be identified by the Community Safety department and installed.

This is being used as a pilot with a view to expand the project if successful.

1.1.16 NATIONAL RESILIENCE CAPITAL

Capital funding for National Resilience has been awarded for the purchase of a DIM light electric vehicle and DIM biological and explosive detection equipment.

Funding received in 2021/22 has been carried forward into the new financial year in relation to the building costs for the ongoing USAR property development at Whitchurch.

2. ISSUES

2.1 Since grants were awarded there have been a number of changes to individual projects as summarised below:

2.1.1 HFS STOCK - £86.6k forecasted overspend

Alongside the typical home safety checks the focus this year will increase around dementia awareness, generating more expenditure in the issue of home fire safety equipment.

Albeit not guaranteed, there is the possibility of utilising any underspends on an all Wales basis. Also, in previous years additional 'in-year' funding has become available from Welsh Government, both of which have the potential of covering any overspends in HFS stock.

2.1.2 YOUTH - £2.4k forecasted overspend

With the award of grant funding from Welsh Government remaining static for several years and the increase in salary costs following the recent outcome of job evaluation, there is a shortfall in income available to offset forecasted spends.

As above, there may be the possibility of utilising an all Wales underspend or requesting additional funding if either become available later in the financial year.

2.1.3 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR - £1.4k forecasted overspend

The grant received for the Anti-Social Behaviour position has increased this financial year, although it does not cover the forecasted spends in their entirety. Further funding is not available from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent so these overspends will be required to be met from revenue.

2.1.4 AFAN PROJECT - £3k forecasted overspend

The AFAN project has ended, and work has been completed by SWFRS personnel. The funding was agreed at 85% reimbursement of expenditure across the project and therefore £3k will be required to be absorbed by revenue.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Overall, there is a projected overspend on grants equating to £14.6k. £93.6k of this is anticipated to be charged to revenue which is offset by income received in relation to FF Apprentices of £79k.

Financing over spends from respective revenue and capital budgets can be undertaken to address the shortfall and there is also scope to utilise underspends from our Welsh Fire counterparts for a large part of the overspend, although this carries a risk that these may not materialise. Realistic grant monitoring information is required to be shared by all three Welsh services to ascertain whether this can be achieved.

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REVENUE MONITORING 2022/23
Appendix 4
Grant Monitoring Report 2022/23 – Table (10.10.2022)

SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE REVENUE GRANT REPORTING 2022/23										
	FIRE CRIME	HFS STOCK	YOUTH	MOMENTUM	ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	NATIONAL RESILIENCE	MTA	USAR	FBU	JESG
Employee Costs										
Salaries, NI & superann.	32,176.11	0.00	105,511.82	0.00	37,193.52	334,513.44	87,642.80	285,953.24	14,843.44	0.00
Travel & Subs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,523.38	1,616.50	430.20	0.00	113.17
Premises Related Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Training Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	99,317.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Supplies & Services	0.00	416,518.49	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	546,925.80	40,049.70	11,240.00	0.00	0.00
Transport Related Expenses	9,777.89	0.00	8,291.92	60,000.00	0.00	5,990.00	2,995.00	9,429.80	0.00	0.00
Third Party Payments (Contracted Services)	65,794.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Expenditure	107,748.00	416,518.49	113,803.74	70,000.00	37,193.52	989,270.00	132,304.00	307,053.24	14,843.44	113.17
Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grant Income	-107,748.00	-329,900.00	-111,355.00	-70,000.00	-35,785.00	-989,270.00	-132,304.00	-307,053.24	-14,843.44	-113.17
(Under)/Overspend to be transferred to Revenue	0.00	86,618.49	2,448.74	0.00	1,408.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.00	0.00

	MERSEYSIDE FRS	CIRCULAR ECONOMY	WAST VOLS	FF APPRENT	CYBER TRAINING	AFAN PROJECT	ANEURIN BEVAN UHB	CARDIFF & VALE UHB	WALES & WEST UTILITIES	Total
Employee Costs										
Salaries, NI & superann.	28,855.53	0.00	183.47	0.00	0.00	1,698.46	384.21	1,447.90	0.00	930,403.94
Travel & Subs	118.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,405.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,207.69
Premises Related Expenses	0.00	20,015.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,015.78
Training Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	99,917.38
Supplies & Services	13.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	442.64	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	1,030,190.22
Transport Related Expenses	2,083.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	98,567.80
Third Party Payments (Contracted Services)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	65,794.00
Total Expenditure	31,071.22	20,015.78	183.47	0.00	600.00	4,546.63	384.21	1,447.90	5,000.00	2,252,096.81
Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grant Income	-31,071.22	-20,015.78	-183.47	-78,996.56	-600.00	-1,471.03	-384.21	-1,447.90	-5,000.00	-2,237,542.02
(Under)/Overspend to be transferred to Revenue	-0.00	0.00	0.00	-78,996.56	0.00	3,075.60	0.00	-0.00	0.00	14,554.79

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THIS REPORT IS NOT EXEMPT AND IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN**SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY**AGENDA ITEM NO 7
10 OCTOBER 2022

FINANCE, AUDIT & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

REPORT OF TEMP ASSISTANT CHIEF OFFICER CORPORATE SERVICES

CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT 2022/23**THIS REPORT IS FOR DECISION**

REPORT APPROVED BY TEMP ASSISTANT CHIEF OFFICER CORPORATE SERVICES

REPORT PRESENTED BY TEMP HEAD OF FINANCE, PROCUREMENT & PROPERTY

SUMMARY

The Capital Monitoring Report provides details of the capital budget, transactions to date and the forecast year end position for the year ending 31 March 2023.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members note the budget and progress of capital schemes, approve alterations identified in appendix 1 and associated movements in funding.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report provides an update of the major changes affecting the capital budget since budget setting.
- 1.2 Appendix 1 illustrates budget information and funding analysis for all approved capital investment plans for the current financial year. Longer time horizons are expected for capital investment schemes, this often results in budgets being phased over more than one financial year and this is referred to as slippage.
- 1.3 In summary, Appendix 1 presents the total budget (2021/22 slippage + 2022/23 budget) of £12.0 million, set against this is the forecast outturn position, budget over spend and slippage as £10.5 million, £1.9 million and £3.5 million respectively.
- 1.4 Appendix 2 details grant funded initiatives and the impact these have on the capital budget and associated funding streams.
- 1.5 Below a detailed narrative supports the above position and a funding analysis provides information on how we intend to finance the investment.

Members are minded that SWFRS does not receive a funding settlement in support of capital activities and is the main driver of our borrowing.

2. BUDGET HEADINGS

2.1 Property

2.1.1 The overall budget for the year is £4.5million, forecast expenditure and budget slippage are £3.2m million and £2.8m respectively. A net overspend of £1.5m is driven by a number of schemes, per appendix 1, the largest of these being the Urban Search & Rescue (USAR) facility at Whitchurch £952k, Boiler Replacement £200k and Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure enlargement £169k. £1.1m out of the £1.3m over spend will be fully funded by Welsh Government (WG) grants. More detail on individual schemes is provided below;

2.1.2 New Inn Station

The purchase of land at a new site has not materialised and plans are in place to develop the current site. Design has commenced and will continue for the remainder of this year and with construction anticipated in 2023/24 financial year. Investigations are taking place for this station to become the first zero carbon station within the SWFR land and building portfolio and likely the whole of Wales. There is currently a 15% cost premium to achieve this with wider impacts i.e. behavioural change, to be discussed and agreed in the near future.

2.1.3 Pontyclun

There are a number of elements relating to the Pontyclun site as follows;

- **Fire station**

An initial budget of £10k was designated to fund fees and design works in preparation for a refurbishment to commence in 2024/25. The delay relates to the required enabling works to free up space on the drill yard and relocate parking, amongst other works, as this is a co-location station.

- **Fire Training Facility**

The £100k forecast is the estimated cost of demolition of the training building. This has not been use for a number of years and formed part of the business case for investment into Cardiff Gate, i.e. Compartment Fire Behavioural Training (CFBT) facility. The existing drill tower, which is integral to training building will also be demolished, and a new steel

tower erected, this element will be added to the Tower strategy which is already underway.

2.1.4 Penarth Station

Preparatory work will commence in the new year for a major refurbishment and a forecast £25k is an estimated cost up to 31 March 2023. It is envisaged that construction will commence during 2023/24 and be completed in 2024/25 and will address pressing equality and diversity requirements on the station.

2.1.5 On-call Station Project

Preparatory work is continuing with 3 tender returns received requiring procurement assistance. So far, planning applications have been approved on the following stations;

1. Pontycymer
2. Abercynon
3. Ferndale
4. Pencoed
5. Rhymney
6. Treorchy

We are awaiting a responses on the final 3;

7. Gilfach
8. Brynmawr
9. Treharris

Construction will commence with the blue print station that is Pontycymer in the coming months and we will ensure any issues are captured and adjustments made prior to proceeding with the remaining 8 stations. It is hoped Pontycymer will be completed this financial year.

2.1.6 Planned & Preventative

There are four different projects falling under this heading and the overall forecast is broken down below;

	Budget	Forecast	Over/Underspend
Maesteg Roof	£150k	£200k	-£50k
Tower Strategy	£487k	£395k	£92k
Cardiff Gate Fuel Pump	0	£30k	-£30k
HQ Fire Alarm	0	£50k	-£50k
	£637k	£675k	-£38k

2.1.6.1 Maesteg Roof Replacement

The contract has been awarded, work will commence shortly and will be completed during this financial year. The £50 over spend is a result of firmer costs being agreed during the procurement phase.

2.1.6.2 Tower Strategy

2022/23 continues with the strategy of works developed in 2021/22. 5 stations were originally identified for demolition due to their hazardous condition, and a replaced with a new style, steel tower, sites identified are as follows;

1. Pontypridd
2. Roath
3. Treorchy
4. Maindee
5. Whitchurch

2.1.6.3 Pontypridd was completed in line with the major refurbishment last financial year. Whitchurch and Roath have also been demolished and Treorchy is due for demolition 7th November. We are currently waiting on planning permission for Maindee and work will continue throughout the year to further the replacement aspect with an expectation of 3 being completed by year end.

2.1.6.4 Cardiff Gate Fuel Pump

This is an additional scheme that has been approved since budget setting as the investment in a 10,000 litre, above ground fuel tank at Cardiff Gate Training Centre will yield savings on fuel in the revenue budget. The cost per litre in comparison to that payable at local garages, is lower due to the economies of scale whilst delivering resilience.

2.1.6.5 HQ Fire Alarm

This is unforeseen expenditure due to the current system failing and parts becoming obsolete.

2.1.7 Whitchurch (USAR)

This grant funded scheme began in the previous financial year and is forecast to cost £952k in this financial year. It is to be fully funded by WG and is due to be completed in October 2022.

2.1.8 Solar Panelling

This project is on hold pending further site investigations as initial intentions to fit at HQ and Barry have not come to fruition as roofs

are suitable to hold the solar panels. Salix funding i.e. interest free, has been secured for the project but not drawn as a result.

2.1.9 Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers

In continuing with the installation of the EV charging infrastructure across the service, WG funding has been made available for dual installations at the remainder of our WDS stations and further on-call stations. This will ensure sufficient coverage to support initial investment in electric vehicles when they become available.

2.1.10 Boiler Works

It has been identified that the boilers at Barry, Merthyr and Cwmbran stations need to be replaced with a forecast cost of £200k across the three sites. This was following various faults and repairs in recent months.

2.2 **Vehicle Replacement Programme (VRP)**

2.2.1 The overall budget equates to £5.4m, forecast expenditure and budget slippage are £5.2m and £694k respectively. A net overspend of £476k is largely due to the £352k increase in cost of Water ladders and Rescue tenders. There are less significant over spends in other areas the largest of these relates to the purchase of a Detection, Identification and Monitoring (DIM) light vehicle at £75k, and is wholly funded by WG.

2.2.2 Truck

This budget was originally submitted for 2018/19 and has since slipped forward year on year due to insufficient market (potential suppliers) interest. This issue has been overcome and an order placed, however, and as expected, costs have since risen resulting in a £46k overspend. The chassis is due in November and the build should be completed by the end of the financial year.

2.2.3 Water Ladders

Last years budget was slipped into this year and the 8 water ladders relating to the 2021/22 VRP have now been delivered. There are 7 further vehicles due to be delivered in September relating to the 2022/23 VRP and this will bring us up to date with the water ladder programme. As reported last year, the cost of vehicles has increased resulting in an overspend of £160k across 15 vehicles.

2.2.4 Rescue Tenders

This budget was slipped forward as delivery did not take place before year end. As reported last year, the cost per vehicle has

increased largely due to alterations in specification which includes a winch, which will align with existing rescue tenders.

2.3 Operational Equipment

2.3.1 The overall budget equates to £1.4m, forecast expenditure is £1.4m with an underspend of £38k. There has been a large underspend on cutting equipment which has been offset by an overspend on DIM equip, although the latter will be WG funded.

2.3.2 RTC Cutting/Rescue Tender Equipment

An underspend of £252k is forecast due to a change in specification to include a mix of hydraulic and battery operated equipment.

2.3.3 BA Compressor

This project was not included in budget setting but has since become urgent as the Breathing Apparatus (BA) compressor at Pontyclun Station is starting to fail. Costs of repairing the compressors are increasing and it was more cost effective to replace it. A review of all compressors has been undertaken by our maintenance contractor who has identified an aging asset base, albeit, it is very difficult to determine when a replacement will be needed and a wholesale replacement will be expensive.

2.4 ICT Equipment

2.4.1 The overall budget £748k, forecast spend is £768k resulting in a £20k overspend. This overspend is due to cost increases and dollar exchange rate variances since the budget was set.

3. IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Appendix 1 illustrates current capital spending plans for the year and how this differs from the original budget.

A forecast spend of £10.5m and slippage of £3.5m result in a net £1.9m overspend. Contributing to this is £2.2m of overspends of which £1.4 is grant funded, £258k of underspends can be used to offset with remaining £526k to be funded by the Authority. This is analysed below.

CAPITAL SCHEME	Over spend	Under spend	Additional Funding	Report Variances
PONTYCLUN	-90			-90
PLANNED & PREVENTATIVE MAINT	-38			-38
WHITCHURCH USAR (grant funded)	-952		952	0
SOLAR PANELS	-27		27	0
EV CHARGERS	-169		169	0
BOILER WORKS	-200			-200
TRUCK (SLIDE DECK / CRANE)	-46			-46
WATER LADDERS	-160			-160
RESCUE TENDERS	-192			-192
NON OP 4WD	-4			-4
LADDERS		1		1
DIM ELECTRIC LIGHT VEHICLE (grant funded)	-75		75	0
RTC CUTTING/RESCUE TENDER EQUIPMENT		252		252
WET WEATHER GEAR	-7			-7
BA COMPRESSOR	-22			-22
DIM EQUIPMENT (grant funded)	-185		185	0
GPS REPEATERS ON ALL STATIONS		5		5
THIN CLIENT REPLACEMENT	-3			-3
VOICE GATEWAYS REPLACEMENT	-7			-7
HQ INNER FIREWALLS REPLACEMENT	-15			-15
TOTAL	-2,191	258	1,408	-526

3.2 Community and Environment

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	No
Welsh Language	No
Well-Being Of Future Generations (Wales) Act	No
Socio Economic Duty	No
Sustainability / Environment / Carbon Reduction	No
Safeguarding	No
Consultation and Communications	No
Consultation with Representative Bodies	No
Impact Assessment	No

3.3 Regulatory, Strategy and Policy

Legal	No
Financial	Yes
Procurement	No
Corporate Risk	No
Information Management	No
Data Protection / Privacy	No
Health, Safety and Wellbeing	No

Governance & Audit	No
Service Policy	No
National Policy	No

3.4 Resources, Assets and Delivery

Human Resources and People Development	No
Assets and Resources (Property/Fleet/ICT/Equipment)	No
Service Delivery	No
Procurement	No
Budget Revenue/Capital	Yes

4. EVALUATION & CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The total capital investment for the year is forecast at £10.5m and will be largely funded through borrowing, grants, a revenue contribution and capital receipts.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 That Members note the budget and progress of capital schemes, approve alterations identified in appendix 1 and associated movements in funding.

Contact Officer:	Lisa Mullan Temporary Head of Finance, Property & Procurement	
Background Papers	Date	Source / Contact
Revenue Monitoring Report	2022/23	Head of Finance, Property & Procurement

Appendices	
Appendix 1	Capital Monitoring 2022/23 (10.10.2022)
Appendix 2	Grant Monitoring Report 2022/23 - Capital (10.10.2022)

CAPITAL MONITORING 2022/23
Appendix 1
Capital Monitoring 2022/23 (10.10.2022)

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23								APPENDIX 1
	Project Total £000	SLIPPAGE B/F 2021/22 £000	2022/23 BUDGET £000	ACTUAL AS AT 15.08.22 £000	COMMITTED AS AT 15.08.22 £000	OUTTURN POSITION 31.03.23 £000	BUDGET UNDER/ OVER SPEND £000	SLIPPAGE C/F 2023/24 £000
PROPERTY								
STATION REFURBISHMENTS								
MONMOUTH (co-location scheme)	600	350	0	0	0	350	0	0
NEW INN	3,800	1,960	0	3	45	100	0	1,860
PONTYCLUN	1,100	10	0	0	0	100	-90	0
PENARTH	3,250	0	25	0	0	25	0	0
WHITCHURCH / USAR (Grant)	1,040	0	0	306	676	952	-952	0
ON-CALL STATION PROJECT	1,850	0	1,500	69	219	600	0	900
PLANNED & PREVENTATIVE MAINT	0	187	450	51	4	675	-38	0
SOLAR PV HQ (Grant)	300	0	0	8	19	27	-27	0
EV CHARGERS (Grant)	169	0	0	0	0	169	-169	0
BOILER WORKS	200	0	0	0	0	200	-200	0
	12,309	2,507	1,975	438	963	3,198	-1,475	2,760
VEHICLES								
TRUCK (SLIDE DECK / CRANE)	150	150	0	0	72	196	-46	0
WATER LADDERS	3,719	1,934	1,785	2,022	1,857	3,879	-160	0
RESCUE TENDERS	705	705	0	250	647	897	-192	0
VAN/OPS ESTATE CAR	454	299	155	0	0	0	0	454
LIGHT UTILITY 4WD	240	0	240	0	0	0	0	240
NON OP 4WD	26	0	26	0	27	30	-4	0
LADDERS	108	0	108	107	0	107	1	0
DIM ELECTRIC LIGHT VEHICLE (Grant)	75	0	0	0	0	75	-75	0
	5,477	3,088	2,314	2,379	2,604	5,184	-476	694
EQUIPMENT								
RTC CUTTING/RESCUE TENDER EQUIPMENT	300	494	795	57	972	1,037	252	0
WET WEATHER GEAR	100	100	0	0	107	107	-7	0
BA COMPRESSOR	22	0	0	0	22	22	-22	0
DIM BIOLOGICAL & EXPLOSIVE DETECTION EQUIPMENT (Grant)	185	0	0	0	0	185	-185	0
	607	594	795	57	1,079	1,351	38	0
ICT								
WIRELESS LAN CONTROLLERS	80	26	0	0	0	26	0	0
GPS REPEATERS ON ALL STATIONS	45	5	0	0	0	0	5	0
THIN CLIENT REPLACEMENT	250	47	0	50	0	50	-3	0
END USER COMPUTER REPLACEMENT	450	0	150	2	104	150	0	0
VOICE GATEWAYS REPLACEMENT	20	20	0	11	16	27	-7	0
HQ INNER FIREWALLS REPLACEMENT	30	30	0	28	17	45	-15	0
CORE SWITCH REPLACEMENT	130	130	0	0	0	130	0	0
SERVERS AND STORAGE REPLACEMENT	150	0	150	7	114	150	0	0
SERVER SOFTWARE UPGRADE	150	0	150	0	0	150	0	0
WIRELESS ACCESS POINTS	40	0	40	0	0	40	0	0
	1,345	258	490	98	250	768	-20	0
TOTAL	19,738	6,447	5,574	2,972	4,896	10,501	-1,933	3,454
FUNDING ANALYSIS								
BORROWING						8,855		
CO-LOCATION CONTRIBUTIONS						0		
REVENUE CONTRIBUTION						200		
REVENUE RESERVES						0		
CAPITAL GRANT						1,408		
CAPITAL RECEIPTS						39		
TOTAL						10,501		

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CAPITAL MONITORING 2022/23
Appendix 2
Grant Monitoring Report 2022/23 – Capital (10.10.2022)

	NATIONAL RESILIENCE
<u>Vehicles</u>	
<i>DIM Light Electric Vehicle</i>	75,000
<u>Equipment</u>	
<i>DIM Biological & Explosive Detection Equipment</i>	185,000
<u>Property</u>	
<i>USAR property development</i>	952,000
<i>EV Chargers</i>	169,000
<i>Solar PV HQ</i>	300,000
Income	-1,681,000
(Under)/Overspend	0

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THIS REPORT IS NOT EXEMPT AND IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

AGENDA ITEM NO 8
10 OCTOBER 2022

FINANCE AUDIT & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE T/HEAD OF FINANCE, PROCUREMENT AND PROPERTY

2021/22 ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW

THIS REPORT IS FOR DECISION

REPORT APPROVED BY TEMP ASSISTANT CHIEF CORPORATE SERVICES

REPORT PRESENTED BY TEMP HEAD OF FINANCE, PROCUREMENT PROPERTY

SUMMARY

To consider the results of treasury management activities for the year ending 31 March 2022, in accordance with the Authority's approved Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/22.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Finance Audit & Performance Management Committee;

- Note the Annual Treasury Management Review for 2021/22, and
- Approve the actual prudential and treasury indicators set therein

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 There is a statutory and regulatory obligation for the Authority to comply with the reporting requirements detailed in Appendix 1. An 'Annual Treasury Management Review Report' is required to be presented to full Authority as soon after the close of the financial year as is practicable or by the 30 September at the latest. The purpose of this is to compare the actual position to the treasury management strategy (TMSS) set in advance of the year to confirm or otherwise, compliance and assess performance.

2. ISSUE

- 2.1 Effective treasury management can be measured by its budget impact i.e financing costs and investment income, organisational solvency and cash flow.
- 2.2 The Authority can receive bank deposits in excess of £90 million any one year and monthly bank payments can total as much as 8 million and is dependant on a number of factors. The timing of these cash flows can be

uncertain and as such, it is imperative that the flow of cash in and out of Authority bank accounts is managed to support budget strategies and minimise risk.

- 2.3 The Authority has a number of banking providers, i.e. Lloyds, Barclays and NatWest. The main banking contract was awarded to Lloyds in February 2020 following a successful tender process. The remaining two providers are used as contingency accounts, used to manage funds surplus to the agreed counter party limits set by Members within the strategy, i.e. £10 million.
- 2.4 Appendix 1 provides Members with more detail on the capital investment activity for the year, how this is financed and the impact on the Authority's indebtedness, the year end treasury position and various prudential and treasury indicators.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Borrowing Outturn

The Authority maintains a competitive, average debt book rate of approx 3.83% which is the same as 2020/21. Interest on borrowing is £1.12 and £1.01 million for 2020/21 and 2021/22 respectively. The current borrowing strategy is to utilise the Authority's cash reserves in the first instance and to undertake external borrowing for long term investment.

3.2 Investment Outturn

There were no investments made during the year as cash surpluses were used to fund capital spending. Investment returns in 2021/22 were better than 2020/21 at £10k in comparison with £2k in 2020/21.

4. IMPLICATION

4.1 Community and Environment

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	No
Welsh Language	No
Well-Being Of Future Generations (Wales) Act	No
Socio Economic Duty	No
Sustainability / Environment / Carbon Reduction	No
Safeguarding	No
Consultation and Communications	No
Consultation with Representative Bodies	No
Impact Assessment	No

4.2 Regulatory, Strategy and Policy

Legal	No
Financial	Yes
Procurement	No
Corporate Risk	No
Information Management	No
Data Protection / Privacy	No
Health, Safety and Wellbeing	No
Governance & Audit	No
Service Policy	No
National Policy	No

4.3 Resources, Assets and Delivery

Human Resources and People Development	No
Assets and Resources (Property/Fleet/ICT/Equipment)	No
Service Delivery	No
Procurement	No
Budget Revenue/Capital	Yes

5. RECOMMENDATION

5.1 That the Finance Audit & Performance Management Committee:

- Note the Annual Treasury Management Review for 2020/21
- Approve the actual prudential and treasury indicators set therein.

Contact Officer:	Lisa Mullan T/Head of Finance, Procurement & Property
Background Papers	- CIPFA Code Treasury Management - CIPFA Prudential Code - Treasury Management Strategy - Capital Outturn Report - Annual statement of Account - Treasury Management Practices (TMP's)

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Annual Treasury Management Review

2021/22

Purpose

This Authority is required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2021/22. This report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management, (the Code), and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, (the Prudential Code).

During 2021/22 the minimum reporting requirements were that the full Authority should receive the following reports:

- an annual treasury management strategy in advance of the year reported to Fire Authority 22 March 2021
- a mid-year treasury update report reported to Fire Authority 20 December 2021
- an annual review following the end of the year describing the activity compared to the strategy, (this report)

The regulatory environment places responsibility on members for the review and scrutiny of treasury management policy and activities. This report is, therefore, important in that respect, as it provides details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlights compliance with the Authority's policies previously approved by members.

This Authority confirms that it has complied with the requirement under the Code to give prior scrutiny to all of the above treasury management reports by the Finance, Audit & Performance Management Scrutiny / Committee before they were reported to the full Authority.

Executive Summary

During 2021/22, the Authority complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements. The Treasurer also confirms that no new borrowing was undertaken in the year and the statutory borrowing limit, (the authorised limit), was not breached.

The financial year 2021/22 continued the challenging investment environment of low investment returns and as a result, formal investments were not made which assisted in maintaining the treasury strategy and a position of internal borrowing in the short term.

Introduction and Background

This report summarises the following:-

- Summary position
- Capital activity during the year;
- Impact of this activity on the Authority's underlying indebtedness, (the Capital Financing Requirement);
- The actual prudential and treasury indicators;
- Overall treasury position identifying how the Authority has borrowed in relation to this indebtedness, and the impact on investment balances;

Summary Position

Capital, Financing & Prudential Indicators	2020/21 Outturn	2021/22 Outturn	2021/22 Estimate
Opening CFR	41,465	41,630	45,538
Capital Spending	3,587	3,854	7,810
CERA	-203	-200	-250
Capital Receipts	0	-189	0
Capital Grant	-69	-357	0
Revenue Reserves	-17	0	0
Borrowing requirement for the year	3,298	3,108	7,560
Repayment of Debt			
MRP	-2,903	-2,833	-3,084
MRP on PFI	-229	-365	-365
Closing CFR	41,630	41,541	49,649
Movement in closing CFR	166	-89	-4,111
Gross borrowing at start of year	26,478	29,062	29,477
New borrowing	5,000	0	2,000
Loan repayments	-2,416	-916	0
Gross borrowing at end of year	29,062	28,147	31,477
Other long term liabilities i.e. pfi and leases	4,462	4,097	4,097
Gross Debt	33,524	32,244	35,574
Under/Over borrowed (Gross debt vs CFR)	8,106	9,297	14,075
Movement in OLTL from year to year	-229	-365	-365
*Other long term liabilities added to loans must be less than CFR			

The Authority's Capital Expenditure and Financing

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The Authority undertakes capital expenditure on long-term assets. These activities may either be:

- Financed immediately through the application of capital or revenue resources (capital receipts, capital grants, revenue contributions etc.), which has no resultant impact on the Authority's borrowing need; or
- If insufficient financing is available, or a decision is taken not to apply resources, the capital expenditure will give rise to a borrowing need.

The actual capital expenditure forms one of the required prudential indicators. The table above shows the actual capital expenditure and how this was financed.

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The Authority's Overall Borrowing Need

The Authority's underlying need to borrow for capital expenditure is termed the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) and is a gauge of the Authority's indebtedness. The CFR results from the capital activity of the Authority and resources used to pay for the capital spending. It represents the 2021/22 unfinanced capital expenditure (see above table), and prior years' net or unfinanced capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for by revenue or other resources.

Part of the Authority's treasury activities is to address the funding requirements for this borrowing need. Depending on the capital expenditure programme, the Finance team organises the Authority's cash position to ensure that sufficient cash is available to meet the capital plans and cash flow requirements. This may be sourced through borrowing from external bodies such as the Public Works Loan Board [PWLB], or as in 2021/22, utilising temporary cash resources from within the Authority.

The Authority's CFR is not allowed to rise indefinitely. Statutory controls are in place to ensure that capital assets are broadly charged to revenue over the life of the asset. The Authority is required to make an annual revenue charge, called the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), to reduce the CFR and is effectively a repayment of the borrowing need.

The CFR can also be reduced by:

- the application of additional capital financing resources, i.e. capital receipts; or
- charging more than the statutory revenue charge (MRP) each year through a Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP).

The Authority's 2021/22 MRP Policy, as required by Welsh Government Guidance, was approved as part of the Treasury Management Strategy Report for 2021/22.

The Authority's CFR for the year is shown in the table above, and represents a key prudential indicator. It includes PFI on the balance sheet, which increases the Authority's borrowing need although no borrowing is required as a borrowing facility is included in the contract.

Borrowing activity is constrained by prudential indicators for gross borrowing and the CFR, and by the authorised limit.

In order to ensure that borrowing levels are prudent and are only for a capital purposes, the Authority should ensure that its gross external borrowing does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the capital financing requirement in the preceding year (2021/22) plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current (2022/23) and next two financial years. This essentially means that the Authority is not borrowing to support revenue expenditure. The table above highlights the Authority's gross borrowing position against the CFR and that the Authority has complied with this prudential indicator.

The authorised limit is the "affordable borrowing limit" required by s3 of the Local Government Act 2003. Once this has been set, the Authority does not have the power to borrow above this level. The table below demonstrates that during 2021/22 the Authority has maintained gross borrowing within its authorised limit.

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The operational boundary is the expected borrowing position of the Authority during the year. Periods where the actual position is either below or over the boundary are acceptable subject to the authorised limit not being breached.

Actual financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream - this indicator identifies the trend in the cost of capital, i.e. borrowing and other long term obligations net of investment income, against the net revenue stream. The below table shows the financing costs are less than anticipated as a result of no new borrowing being taken in the year.

	2021/22 £000's
Authorised limit	45,000
Maximum gross borrowing position during the year	29,062
Operational boundary	40,000
Financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream estimate	6.71%
Financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream actual	5.91%

Treasury Position as at 31st March 2022

The Authority's treasury management debt and investment position is organised by the finance team in order to ensure adequate liquidity for revenue and capital activities, security for investments and to manage risks within all treasury management activities. Procedures and controls to achieve these objectives are well established both through member reporting detailed in the summary, and through officer activity detailed in the Authority's Treasury Management Practices. At the end of 2021/22 the Authority's treasury, (excluding borrowing by PFI and finance leases), position was as follows:

Borrowing	21/22
PWLB	
Opening Principal	29,040,744.88
New Borrowing	0.00
EIP Principal Repaid	-401,899.42
Maturity Principal Repaid	-500,000.00
Closing Principal	28,138,845.47
Salix	
Opening Principal	20,750.01
New Borrowing	0.00
EIP Principal Repaid	0.00
Maturity Principal Repaid	-13,833.34
Closing Principal	6,916.67
Total	
Opening Principal	29,061,494.89
New Borrowing	0.00
EIP Principal Repaid	-401,899.42
Maturity Principal Repaid	-513,833.34
Closing Principal	28,145,762.14
Total principal paid	-915,732.76

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The maturity structure of the debt portfolio as at 31 March 2022, was as follows:

Maturing Within	PWLB Principal £	Average Rate %	Non-PWLB £	Total £
Less than 1 year	1,401,899.42	4.36	6,916.67	1,408,816.09
over 1 not over 2 years	1,382,819.41	4.44	0.00	1,382,819.41
over 2 not over 5 years	4,616,218.27	4.76	0.00	4,616,218.27
over 5 not over 10 years	8,637,908.34	3.43	0.00	8,637,908.34
over 10 not over 15 years	12,100,000.00	3.63	0.00	12,100,000.00
Total	28,138,845.44	3.83	6,916.67	28,145,762.11

Deposits were as follows;

Period	Barclays	Lloyds	Closing Current Acc balance	BOE RATE	Current Account Rate	INTEREST DUE	INTEREST RECVD
Apr-21	10,000,228	7,613,631	17,613,858	0.10%	0.00%	N	0
May-21	10,000,638	7,883,546	17,884,184	0.10%	0.00%	N	0
Jun-21	10,293,879	6,324,333	16,618,212	0.10%	0.00%	N	0
Jul-21	10,589,504	4,354,482	14,943,986	0.10%	0.00%	N	0
Aug-21	10,783,501	3,630,936	14,414,437	0.10%	0.00%	N	0
Sep-21	5,051,267	8,277,023	13,328,290	0.10%	0.00%	N	0
Oct-21	5,491,019	6,439,788	11,930,807	0.10%	0.00%	N	0
Nov-21	5,491,019	6,439,788	11,930,807	0.10%	0.00%	N	0
Dec-21	1,933,677	7,030,982	8,964,659	0.25%	0.15%	Y	995
Jan-22	2,196,666	8,393,635	10,590,301	0.25%	0.15%	Y	1,632
Feb-22	4,196,729	6,529,695	10,726,424	0.25%	0.15%	Y	2,292
Mar-22	1,000,000	6,273,258	7,273,258	0.75%	0.65%	Y	5,649
Total	77,028,127	79,191,096	156,219,224				10,567

Investment returns remained close to zero for much of 2021/22 and the expectation for interest rates within the treasury management strategy for 2021/22 was that Bank Rate would remain at 0.1% until it was clear to the Bank of England that the emergency level of rates introduced at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic were no longer necessitated.

The Bank of England and the Government also maintained various monetary and fiscal measures, supplying the banking system and the economy with massive amounts of cheap credit so that banks could help cash-starved businesses to survive the various lockdowns/negative impact on their cashflow. The Government also supplied huge amounts of finance to local authorities to pass on to businesses. This meant that for most of the year there was much more liquidity in financial markets than there was demand to borrow, with

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the consequent effect that investment earnings rates remained low until towards the turn of the year when inflation concerns indicated central banks, not just the Bank of England, would need to lift interest rates to combat the second-round effects of growing levels of inflation (CPI was 6.2% in February).

Investment balances have been kept to a minimum through the agreed strategy of using reserves and balances to support internal borrowing, rather than borrowing externally from the financial markets. External borrowing would have incurred an additional cost, due to the differential between borrowing and investment rates as illustrated in the charts shown above and below. Such an approach has also provided benefits in terms of reducing counterparty risk exposure, by having fewer investments placed in the financial markets.

There have been no changes to the Authority's risk appetite and there has been no debt re-scheduling during the year as the average debt rate remains low at 3.83%.

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AGENDA ITEM NO 9

BUSINESS PLAN ACTIONS REPORT

Health Check

2022-2023 Quarter 1 (April–June 2022)

This paper will give assurance to the Members of the Fire & Rescue Authority and senior management within South Wales Fire & Rescue Service on progress towards achievement of the Strategic Themes and performance of the Strategic Performance Indicators for the period 01 April – 30 June 2022.

Background

- 1.1 The Welsh Government requires South Wales Fire & Rescue Service to develop Strategic Plans to identify the direction for the Service and address particular areas for improvement. The Service does this by developing a Strategic Plan, implementing actions and measuring indicators to enable the Service to achieve these organisational goals.
- 1.2 All departments link actions within their annual department plans to the appropriate Strategic Objectives. This enables us to measure how well we are performing against these objectives by how many of the linked actions are on target and review how the associated indicators are performing.
- 1.3 Quarterly updates are recorded by action owners onto the Business Management Information System (BMIS), and staff within the Planning, Performance and Risk Team monitor the information and extract reports accordingly.
- 1.4 To further support the performance management framework, National Strategic Indicators were introduced for reporting year 2015/16. Together these provide data and information to inform and support decision-making processes within the Service to target activity and drive improvement. The Statistics and Risk Team monitors the information and extract reports accordingly.
- 1.5 This report will provide Members and Officers with a health check on performance against the Strategic Themes and Strategic Indicators for the period 01 April – 30 June 2022.

Issue

- 2.1 For Members' information going forward, taking into account the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Service has revised the Strategic Plan to include eight Strategic Themes as listed below:
- ST01 – Keeping you safe
 - ST02 – Responding to your emergency
 - ST03 – Using technology well
 - ST04 – Working with our partners
 - ST05 – Engaging and communicating
 - ST06 – Valuing our people
 - ST07 – Protecting our environment
 - ST08 – Continuing to work effectively
- 2.2 Each of these Strategic Themes has one or more Objectives that the Service has monitored progress against during 01 April – 30 June 2022.
- 2.3 Appendix 1 attached is a summary of the Performance Monitoring Report, which reviews the period 01 April – 30 June 2022 performance against agreed targets for the seven National Strategic Performance Indicators. It also includes a summary comment for each indicator.
- 2.4 Appendix 1 identifies that four indicators have not met their targets and performed worse than last year, and three indicators are achieving their targets.
- 2.5 The four indicators that have not meet their target and have performed worse than last year are:
1. Other Special Services Calls Attended
 2. Total False Alarms Attended
 3. Total Fires Attended
 4. % of Dwelling Fires Confined to Room of Origin
- 2.6 The three indicators that have achieved their targets are:
5. Total Road Traffic Collisions Attended
 6. Total Deaths and Injuries in Fires
 7. Accidental Deaths and Injuries in Fires
- 2.7 Appendix 1 attached provides some key information about the Service and its performance during the period 01 April 2022 – 30 June 2022.

Equality Risk Assessment

1. This report, the accompanying appendices and the targets themselves have no Equality Risk Assessment impact. The Service Performance and Communications Department and the respective Directorates are working with the performance data to establish any trends and implications that would include equality implications. These will be addressed at that time.
2. It is the responsibility of the action owners to ensure that Integrated Assessments are carried out for their actions in the planning framework.

Recommendations

- 4.1 That Members review the performance details and statistical data for the period 01 April – 30 June 2022 contained within this report.

Strategic Theme Task Commentary

ST01 – Keeping you safe

1.1 Reduce the impact of false alarms on our resources

Internal collaboration between Operations and Business Fire Safety (BFS) to reduce Unwanted Fire Signals (UFS) from Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA) continues with a working group meeting regularly. Training on the new UFS framework has been delivered to 22 of the 24 station commanders to ensure consistent approach and enable Commanders to identify problem premises and methods to tackle UFS issues included in the four stage UFS process. A noticeable increase has been noted in UFS activity by Stations using this framework.

1.2 Reduce the number of fires in the home and understand the behaviours and cause of them

Completion of an M20 is establishing as normal procedure at all incidents where we cross the threshold of a residential premise. There are very few occasions where this doesn't happen and each time the responsible officer is questioned as to why it did not occur. Figures released by Community Safety are very positive and we continue to emphasise the importance of the M20.

Home Safety Checks (HSCs) have returned to in-person visits except for some vulnerable households or those that refuse visits due to the remaining risk of Covid 19.

M20 is the form completed by personnel to record HSCs.

1.3 Reduce the number of Road Traffic Collisions

We have delivered a successful trial, on behalf of Welsh Government (WG), of the implementation of the 30-20mph reduction at St. Brides. This took place over eight weeks and data was shared with WG.

- 868 total interactions
- 19 Options events educating people on the dangers of not wearing a seatbelt
- 6 Domino events raising awareness of the **#Fatal5** – Drink / Drugs, Speed, Carelessness, Seat belt, Mobile phones
- 11 Domino delivery training to Ops.
- 1 x 20-30 events to raise awareness of change to speed limit. Link: [Welsh 20mph Taskforce Group | GOV.WALES](#)
- 1 x Crew Manager induction

1.4 Reduce the number of deliberate fires

Operation Dawns Glaw and the Healthy Hillside project support a targeted approach to reducing deliberate fires. Fire Crime practitioners continue to establish strong partnership working to identify areas of opportunities for arson reduction. Our Business Management Information System (BMIS) is used to support stations in targeting deliberate fires setting, including recording actions against their Community Risk Management Plans (CRMPs).

Operation Dawns Glow is an all-Wales multi-agency task force supported by a range of partners whose aim is to reduce the uncontrolled environmental destruction and potential threat to lives and property arising from deliberately set grass fires.

The Healthy Hillides Project is a partnership between numerous organisations, including Natural Resources Wales (NRW), Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales (WTSWW), Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (RCTCBC) and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (SWFRS). Its aim is to better manage our hillides for wildlife, and in doing so, better support the local communities in the Rhondda.

1.5 Improve safety in and around water

We continue to link in with the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC), All Wales Water rescue group and All Wales drowning prevention partnership. The current focus is on the implementation of the Fire and Rescue boat code, completion due in October 2022.

Phase 1 of the Water Rescue Strategy 2022-24 is now 90% complete and we will be going live with our Type C teams (able to enter the water and carry out a swift water rescue) at the beginning of August 2022 at Ely, Bridgend, Pontypridd and Merthyr. Phase 2 is scheduled to start in November 2022.

Water Safety Wales have been lobbying WG to include water safety education on the national curriculum. It is hoped that this will be agreed and implemented by the next academic year. We supported the media campaign for World Drowning Prevention Day on 25th July. We delivered a successful family's event where we invited the families affected by drowning to get together to discuss how we can work together to reduce drowning.

Water Safety Wales was established in 2017 as the All Wales Water Safety Forum by a group of organisations working on water safety and drowning prevention in Wales. In 2018 the group was renamed Water Safety Wales. The group brings together organisations in Wales with an interest in water safety and drowning prevention.

We have launched a campaign to reduce the number of incidents related to paddle boarding and made arrangements for all school children in Wales to receive a letter for their parents to provide guidance on water safety over the summer holidays.

The intranet has been updated to include resources for stations to utilise. A QR code has been created for stations to use to direct citizens back to our website for more detailed water safety information. We have supplied lesson plans for the Cardiff stations to liaise with their constituent schools following a recent tragic death. All lesson plans and resources will be available on StayWise Cymru but resources are available on the "Hwb".

StayWise Cymru aims to provide safety resources, activity packs and lesson plans in the medium of Welsh and English from a diverse range of services for both primary and secondary school age children.

The River Usk Trackway project (a deployable trackway to be used during flooding incidents) is currently underway with the appointment of Amey construction as the project consultants.

1.6 Improve fire safety in buildings in our communities

We continue to collaborate with WG and the other Welsh FRs to implement the recommendations of the White Paper "Safer Buildings in Wales." <https://gov.wales/safer-buildings-wales>

Discussions are ongoing with BFS to identify their requirements for a reporting module via BMIS to provide management information.

Joint Fire Control (JFC) Systems continue to work with Ops Intel to ensure Site Specific Risk Information (SSRI) is up to date via the High Rise Working Group, the Geospatial Data User Group (GDUG) and Building Risk Recommendation Group (BRRG). A Task and Finish group has been established to look at information flows and risk information ownership.

ST02 – Responding to your emergency

2.1 Respond effectively when you need us

The latest JFC recruits' course completed, but recruits are not yet counted as part of the watches. Staff have also been lost due to retirement, resignation and ill-health retirements. A paper has been submitted to the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) for a further recruits' course. Resilience is provided in house by systems and training staff, when required and meetings continue with our North Wales Fire and Rescue Service (NWFRS) partners.

Multi Agency Incident Transfer (MAIT) compatibility and testing is taking place with all agencies other than British Transport Police. We await the upgrade of Vision to version 5.27 to allow more MAIT functionality.

***MAIT** is a highly resilient service for all emergency service providers. It facilitates the fast exchange of secure messages and incident notifications between agency control rooms.*

***Vision** provides the complete control room solution, combining high performance command, control and communications with integrated mapping to enable operators to work more efficiently through an intuitive user interface in a single solution.*

The upgrade of the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) facility at Whitchurch fire and rescue station is on schedule.

***Urban Search and Rescue** crews help to rescue people involved in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) events, building collapses, rescues at height, major flooding incidents, trench collapses and major transport incidents involving a train, tram or aircraft. They also support SWFRS or other Fire and Rescue Service crews when they need more specialist support at incidents.*

The RTC equipment replacement project tender has been awarded, purchasing has commenced and replacement of legacy items has started.

A review of on-call arrangements for Green Book (the national agreement on pay and conditions of service for local government services) posts, with a view to aligning arrangements where possible, may have to be suspended due to staff shortages, team capacity and shifting demands.

2.2 Do all we can to make sure that our On-Call Duty System is available

On-Call recruitment remains an ongoing challenge and a priority for the Retained Management Team (RMT). The process from initial contact has now been further shortened with an 11-day turnaround for application and signed suitability. On-Call Assessment Days (OCAD) are now bi-monthly which is allowing more candidates to plan for the day. Medical process to be explored with the possibility of shortening (SMT have been briefed).

***On-Call Firefighters** – live or work in local communities to the stations they serve and respond to their station when required, within their contracted hours.*

On-Call month was held in August, priority stations were identified with a targeted recruitment drive at specific station and surrounding areas.

QR codes at stations are proving successful with 30 applications received during June with 34 candidates attending the OCAD Aug 3rd. Four courses are planned for 2023 (24 candidates on each).

Station Commanders are collaborating with Property Services to improve facilities on all fire and rescue stations. The property risk matrix is now coming to fruition. Planning has been submitted for several projects to go ahead this financial year.

2.3 Train our firefighters to respond to current and future risks in our communities

Breathing Apparatus (BA) refresher courses have now been redesigned to include a combination of real fire training, theory training and remote led instructor training. Other schools to follow.

The first six monthly review of the two-year BA re-qualification, including the value of online content, is due in October 22, although feedback via CMS post course is positive. On-Call firefighters are still not accessing BA page pre-course (BAR & initial).

A venue for the next major exercise has been identified with permission granted by the owner/occupiers. The aims and objectives of the exercise are currently being developed in preparation for delivering to SMT.

The procurement package for the replacement programme for drill towers on fire and rescue stations was out to tender with a view to a supplier being in place in early August.

The Ops Audit and Support Team (OAST) are using every available opportunity to raise awareness of the data available on BMIS and how this can be positively utilised to identify performance-based outcomes on station. BMIS is now an integral part of the station audit process and incorporated into the outcome of the station audit. This will be monitored over the next 12 months and evaluated at the end of this financial year.

OAST have worked closely with the Operational Development and Review Team (ODRT) in identifying trends and sharing operational learning. These trends have heavily influenced the audited exercises carried out on stations. ODRT attend exercises as an impartial observer to collaborate recording completed by OAST members.

Phase 2 of the Risk Reduction operational competence training has been completed.

ST03 – Using technology well

3.1 Use the most suitable technology and equipment to improve our services

Work has progressed with the Geospatial Data User Group (GDUG) on review of data sets and additional layers will be added to Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) providing crews with information on NRW land and firebreaks. Datasets continue to be reviewed. Mapping system requirements to be established.

MDTs comprise a vehicle mounted, fixed, ruggedised computer fitted with a 12-inch touch screen. The MDT and screen are fitted to the cabs of all frontline appliances enabling crews to access mobilising information, messages and operational data.

Initial content has been drafted to develop a Geo Data Hub on the intranet for staff to access information/guidance on the use of geographic information system (GIS) data and mapping. This will be reviewed to integrate with GDUG and as part of the overhaul of Stats intranet presence. Draft content will be finalised and published in next quarter.

Meetings with Information, Communications and Technology (ICT), Water Office and Airbus are in progress regarding the rollout of the new version of SC Connect for hydrant recording, Links have been made with other services where they use SC Capture and training will take place as well as consultancy from these services.

Training sessions are being held with the Secretariat covering the use of Microsoft Teams, etc. Cost effective digital dictation, compatible with Office 365, is being explored with ICT.

The development of the Personal Review module within PeopleXD (formerly CoreHR) and the Learning Management System has been further progressed with the support of The Access Group.

PeopleXD is our end-to-end HR solution, providing a fully integrated suite of Payroll, People Management, Workforce Management, Talent, Recruitment and Analytics software.

The Access Group is one of the leading providers of business management software to small and mid-sized organisations in the UK, Ireland, and Asia Pacific. It assists customers across commercial and not-for-profit sectors become more productive and efficient.

We have recently been informed that the Home Office are procuring a new Incident Recording System (IRS) for implementation in 2023-2024, changes to our existing system will be postponed until we have further details regarding the impact of the new system.

IRS is a data recording system managed by the Home Office. It collects information on the incidents attended by fire and rescue services, for example fires, false alarms, road traffic collisions. Information collected via the IRS is shared with other government departments and academics. Data is only shared for research and statistical purposes, with data sharing agreements in place for personal data to ensure the data share complies with data privacy legislation.

Work is currently underway preparing to transfer all firefighter development programme and “development to competent (D2C)” documentation online. A cohort of Skills For Justice (SFJ) assessors visited Bedfordshire FRS to review implementation plan delivered there for transfer and implementation to SWFRS. ICT work in preparation has already been undertaken and will be reviewed in line with the project plan.

SFJ is the leading Awarding Organisation for Fire and Rescue Qualifications offering a wide range of training for individuals, teams, and employers across fire and rescue, including fire safety, fire prevention, and much more.

South Wales Police are awaiting the scoring results from the tender responses to their Command and Control solution procurement. Once the new supplier has been identified, JFC will need to start liaising to understand the potential impact and to identify a process for the Integrated Communication Control System (ICCS).

*The **ICCS** is a touch screen interface enabling users to efficiently manage radio and telephony voice communications whilst being able to easily access other subsystems e.g., CCTV, voice recorders, intercom systems, door locks and alarms.*

JFC are invited to ESN meetings via which project updates are provided, however, we still have no direct involvement and rely on updates from FRS ICT depts.

***ESN** is a cross-government programme, led by the Home Office, to deliver the new Emergency Services critical communications system. This will replace the current Airwave service used by the emergency services in England, Wales and Scotland) and transform how they operate.*

There has been no progress, due to lack of resource, in undertaking market engagement to determine a suitable alternative finance system for the Service. Contract expires 28/02/23.

The pdrPro project, to ensure e-learning packages comply with legislation, National Occupational Guidance (NOG) and Service policy and that regular evaluation is in place, is currently in build with new system and on track - working through OSP training packs approximately 92 packs.

***pdrPro** is a planner-based maintenance of competence system that includes all of the activities that make up a core skill. Whether attained in training, incidents, courses or e-learning they are recorded and reported in one place. The dashboard provides an overview and a route into all parts of the system.*

***National Operational Guidance (NOG)** is provided by the NFCC and is a one-stop shop for good practice operational guidance that can be tailored to local needs.*

Link: [**National Operational Guidance Homepage | NFCC CPO \(ukfrs.com\)**](#)

Link: [**Strategic gap analysis | NFCC CPO \(ukfrs.com\)**](#)

ICT...

- Are currently reviewing the ICT Business Continuity Plan that will be finalised when all departments have confirmed their new Recovery Time Objectives (RTOs).

***RTO** is the duration of time in which a business process must be restored after a disaster in order to avoid unacceptable consequences associated with a break in business continuity.*

- CS data is currently held in four systems: HSCs, Safeguarding, Domestic Violence and Fire Setting Intervention Scheme. To track support for any individual, a single client database, enabling an overview of a client and what teams have interacted with them, will be developed. Due to current workload with the Office 365 roll out no real progress has been made on this.
- Continue to review Active Directory Management Tools. As part of our accreditation to Cyber Essentials Plus we need a robust method of assigning user permissions and managing security Group Memberships. Currently this is a manual and labour-intensive process and with few tools to allow us to easily generate reports on user access. We intend to explore software options available, test options and come up with a suitable application to manage user access from start to expiry. Due to current workload with the Office 365 roll out no real progress has been made on this.

- Have begun the VDI Hardware Replacement Project, setting up new servers and planning a staged rollout.
- After discussing with Citrix, are looking at a different technology for our disaster recovery.
- Awarded a contract to Ricoh for printer replacement and are awaiting contract meeting to discuss requirements.
- Have completed work with House on the Hill (Supplier of the ICT Asset Management System) to create a Proof of Concept (POC) for a Redkite replacement and will shortly begin testing with Operational Risk Management (ORM) Team members before extending the testing to a selection of end users. When the testing is complete a decision can be made to progress the new system or remain with the existing system. Dates were set for testing to start in June. Due to current workload with the Office 365 roll out no progress has been made on this.
- Met with Cisco to review hardware that meets requirements for the HQ inner firewall replacement and discussed potential migration options. Placed order for selected hardware and received delivery. Reviewing all current rules and objects in current configuration.
- Experienced some issues with BT around delivery of Session Internet Protocol (SIP) cloud connections which have been resolved following several visits to site. Migration date was set for 5th July

SIP trunking is a digital connection enabling voice, video and other messaging to be transmitted via the internet

- Most office staff now migrated to Office 365 - testing Station End solutions is underway with an intention to begin in September.

3.2 Review the standard and use of technology and equipment across the Service

Ongoing issues with RIDGE continue. Slow but positive progress is being made.

RIDGE (Risk Information Data Gathering Engine) identifies and prioritises properties that are most at risk from fire.

Six iPads have been issued to BFS auditing officers to trial and feedback is being collated to establish how software systems can be integrated to report directly into RIDGE. Options are being explored to look at other operating systems to trial in tandem with Apple to inform a business case for wider roll out across the department. The majority of BFS staff also have touchscreen laptops.

A decision has not yet been made regarding the future of FSEC. An options paper has been written, outlining the options available to the Service.

Scoping exercise underway to produce outline of requirement and reporting for project management. BMIS functionality being explored following recent system upgrade.

ST04 – Working with our partners

4.1 Work with our Public Service Boards (PSBs) to support our communities.

A standard dataset has been developed to be shared with all PSBs, providing key incident statistics at Unitary Authority (UA) and for combined PSBs (where appropriate). This will be discussed with Group Managers with a view to developing BMIS overview.

The Refuse Working Group, a multi-agency partnership led by SWFRS, continued to deliver and support against the need to reduce deliberate fires in this area. The mobile phone trial has commenced, supporting the work of the group in identifying fly tipping hotspots, and following evaluation the results will be presented to OCG for full station roll out. Engagement with all partner agencies continues.

4.2 Work with our partners to deliver our services where they are needed

A draft specialised housing strategy has now been created. The aim is to introduce specialised housing into the Risk Based Inspection Programme (RBIP) and create databases for the premises, profiling each with its own risk rating. These premises will then be audited by the healthcare team.

An estates meeting was scheduled for Q2 with Babcock and Property Services to progress ideas in the technical rescue compound and storage in the Real Fire Training Facility (RFTF). The first meeting of the welfare group to take place in Q2 and, looking for a suitable welfare area similar to that provided on fire and rescue stations.

No progress has been with regards to implementing a new Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Dwr Cymru who are currently not fulfilling any SLA arrangements. They are not able to update an SLA and further meetings are in progress to address these shortfalls.

Clamps are being trialled by Dwr Cymru to resolve the catastrophic failure of hydrants, a memo has been sent to stations and Dwr Cymru are informing us of when these clamps are fitted so the hydrants can be made available on the MDT.

Links have been established with Local Resilience Partners (Gwent & South Wales) to facilitate closer working relationships and contribute to emergency planning actions as required.

The "South Wales Local Resilience Forum" is made up of Local Authorities, emergency services and other responders which help coordination and cooperation in the South Wales area.

CS continue to work with offenders and cusp offenders to reduce anti-social behaviour, RTCs and deliberate fire setting.

The previous tri service hub project lead in WAST has retired and there has been no movement with regards to resurrecting this project for some time now.

We continue to monitor Mid & West Wales FRS direction in order to embed Social Value clauses in line with the Socio-Economic Duty **Home - Social Value Portal**

Qualitative social value clauses are being included in relevant contracts. Meeting was held with ELT in June 2022 to discuss how SWFRS will meet requirements of Social Partnership and Public Procurement Bill.

4.3 Review and evaluate our existing partnerships

A new Partnership Manager role has been established within the Community Safety and Partnerships structure to enhance partnership working. Consolidation of existing partnerships and review of future requirements is ongoing with a review of Memoranda of Understanding (MOU's), partner referrals, awareness training for partners and ensuring our internal onward referral process is current and meets the needs of our communities.

There is the potential for a new Primary Authority Scheme (PAS) with John Lewis Partnership.

The aim of the PAS is for FRSs to develop effective partnerships with businesses to achieve a national consistency in delivering fire safety advice and regulatory activities.

Property Services continue to work with our emergency service partners towards a co-ordinated strategy to develop future co-locations. A mapping exercise, which links with site suitability and condition, has been carried out and will eventually be available to other partners to provide guidance on site feasibility.

We continue to work with insurers to better understand how they monetarise our claims and to identify improvements to establish Value for Money. Our liability insurers attended in June and July and provided Accident Defensibility training to both operational and corporate staff. A further training session is planned for September to cover anyone who missed earlier sessions. For new accidents we are also providing information to the insurers at the time so that accident investigations could have insurer input.

ST05 – Engaging and communicating

5.1 Deliver on the recommendations of the Investors in People report

The undertaking of a survey to determine the effectiveness of internal communications and implement improvements where required remains on hold due to staff resource.

The development of a BMIS reporting portal to track progress made against the Investors In People (IIP) recommendations continues. Meeting to be arranged with IIP portal owners to finalise portal and underlying reporting procedure.

5.2 Involve our communities and make sure they have their say in what we do

The review of our Stakeholder Register and Partnership Register, with reference to the findings of the Socio-Economic Duty, has been Included as a strategic priority in the draft Communication and Engagement CAE strategy - for delivery by 2024.

A Survey Hub is being developed on the intranet for staff to access information/guidance on Surveys and Questionnaires. The content is being finalised for release.

Social media is used widely throughout Operations who are working with the media and comms team to ensure Welsh translation is available or station personnel. This is essential especially for on call stations for recruitment.

5.3 Help keep our communities safe through safety education and attending community events

The “Bernie Panto” has been delivered to 18 high risk schools within our areas at risk of grass fires. This has enabled us to interact with 1,336 students.

We have delivered bulletins to headteachers on drowning prevention and water safety and delivered a number of assemblies to discuss water safety and cold-water shock.

We have made arrangements for all Welsh school children to receive a letter and some guidance for their parents on keeping them safe around water over the summer. We are working with WSW education group to establish an agreed educational strategy for the next academic year and we have lobbied WG to include water safety in the national curriculum from next academic year.

ST06 – Valuing our people

6.1 Attract a workforce that reflects and represents our communities

The development and implementation of a Service recruitment strategy is due to commence shortly.

Work continues, at a national level, in partnership with the NFCC Recruitment project team, to deliver a national recruitment hub by September 2022. We will review SWFRS recruitment practices in line with NFCC Recruitment hub/best practice by end of March 2023.

Work continues with a view to having a suite of recruitment metrics to drive future work streams.

6.2 Develop our people by identifying training and development opportunities

The Personal Review (PR) process is gaining momentum in being embedded across the Service. The initial first year review is complete and final statistics presented to SMT. Phase 2 launch of PRs will happen in year 2 and then a more formal engagement review piece will happen with staff following year end.

After a slow start and some technical difficulties, we are now building a new PeopleXD (CoreHR) LEARN LMS system and in discussions with the Access Group over implementation.

The roll out of Entry Level and Supervisory Level pathways training programmes is being finalised and Universities engaged for other pathways.

Significant progress has been made in establishing an annual training plan which meets the needs of the Auxiliary Reserve. Lesson plans are currently being prepared to underpin training provision. A new Auxiliary Reserve Manager has been recruited and is developing in role. Auxiliary Reserve numbers are low and a new recruitment campaign has been initiated.

The Auxiliary Reserve provides emergency cover during periods where there is a significant reduction in staff; this can be in circumstances such as flu pandemic and industrial action.

Light Goods Vehicle (LGV) / Light Vehicle (LV) / Emergency Fire Appliance Driver (EFAD) training is ready for the implementation of Section 19. Trial courses have been delivered with positive feedback to SWFRS personnel. LV familiarisation is now completed by watch managers on station and managers in HQ. Meeting held in July with OCG to request a 48-month EFAD requalification instead of 36 month. NFCC state 60 months.

We plan to introduce and deliver mandatory Discipline and Grievance Training for Station Managers and Corporate Managers above a Grade 10.

We continue to work with our partners SFJ to evaluate, design and implement changes to the On-Call qualification.

Due to capacity and higher priority work taking precedence, the development of a Service specific online training module covering key Data Protection principles has not progressed during the last quarter.

Development of an Incident Recording System (IRS) e-learning module has not been completed, although some elements have been completed. Evaluation of training held with station personnel to be carried out. Any training developed will need to consider impact of future changes to national IRS system, planned by Home Office. Scope of training module to be confirmed and meeting arranged.

6.3 Support our people to feel well, healthy and happy at work

Pre and post pandemic absences are being analysed for a report to be presented to SMT in August 2022.

The Personal Review process has started its second year with significant momentum on the back of a 74% return during the first year.

We continue to enhance the Equality Allies Network to increase awareness, membership, and participation. We continue to seek opportunities to share key Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) knowledge. The Diversity Officer has recently left the Service which may slow progress in this area in the short term.

We are developing a Job Evaluation Procedure to support the ongoing maintenance of the Service's Job Evaluation scheme. The Procedure has undergone an initial round of consultation and is now with the Trade Unions for feedback.

Training has been sourced with a view to delivering during September 2022 to update and promote the Shared Parental Leave procedure in line with legal advice, guidance and best practice.

We intend increasing the number of MIND/Mental Health Champions by 30 and await confirmation of funding before booking courses.

A pilot has commenced regarding the process of transitioning staff on long term sick to return to work or leave the Service. The review of the first cases is due in August 2022.

Pontycymmer and Treorchy fire and rescue stations have received full planning permission for improvements, e.g. gym facilities, drying rooms, etc. A further eight on-call fire and rescue station improvements are still in consultation.

The Coaching & Mentoring Strategy draft has been completed and is awaiting media work.

Welfare pods are nearing completion at the Joint Public Service Centre (JPSC) and a review of the control is room part of police continuous improvement programme.

JPSC is our joint emergency services control room with staff from three partner organisations – South Wales Police, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service and Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

ST07 – Protecting our environment

7.1 Reduce our usage of single use materials

Our operational personnel water strategy has been amended, with water containers now located on each appliance and personal water bottles issued to all staff. This has resulted in disposable water bottles being eliminated.

All stations have recycling facilities located in and around the stations with all staff/ partner agencies encouraged to utilise them. The items include, Paper, Batteries & Clothing banks.

The upgrading of water boilers has been completed across all stations.

The supply of domestic cold water washing machines is continuing to be rolled out as and when required.

Members are returning to HQ therefore paperless meetings can go ahead. All other meetings attended by SMT / ELT are paperless.

7.2 Explore the use of electric vehicles

The installation of the first group of electric vehicle chargers has now reached completion and further installations will follow at strategic sites. Grant funding has been applied for with WG for remaining sites.

We are looking to change 32 pool vehicles for hybrid equivalents.

7.3 Reduce our energy use and our carbon footprint

A carbon reduction dashboard continues to be developed. A workbook has been developed to include business actions and measures to monitor progress against the baseline year of 2018/19.

Link: [**Carbon-Reduction-Plan-2020-2023 eng.pdf \(southwales-fire.gov.uk\)**](#)

The overarching aim of the Service is to be as sustainable as practically possible and all fire and rescue stations are aware of their responsibilities. Travel is minimised, recycling is commonplace, lighting on station is automated to turn off where no motion is detected, windows and doors kept open/closed in line with seasons and weather conditions.

BFS are conducting over 30% of meetings virtually and work is ongoing to further improve on this.

We continue to consider alternative fuels on all new vehicles.

A report has been designed on Tranman, our Fleet management software, that will allow the Statistics Team to monitor yearly mileages to help monitor our carbon footprint.

Reporting of waste produced cannot be achieved until the new UA consolidated waste is confirmed.

7.4 Consider how our activities impact on the environment

Improving the recording, monitoring and reporting of all carbon impacts across the Service is an annual undertaking and was last reported in the summer of 2021. We are currently reporting although further monitoring and recording requires improvement.

Fleet and Engineering are exploring the feasibility of collecting rainwater and unwanted appliance tank water, e.g., when an appliance arrives at Fleet for maintenance. This has been initiated and companies have been requested to provide costs to develop this system of rainwater capture.

We continue to use the archive management system and continue to have regular confidential waste collections from Shreddit. Property Management are looking to review the organisation's waste-management strategy soon.

ST08 – Continuing to work effectively

8.1 Be clear and publicly accountable

A review of Treasury Management Practices is scheduled to be conducted during the current financial year.

A new Communications and Engagement Strategy is currently in draft.

A BMIS reporting portal has been designed to track compliance with the Welsh Language Standards and is being developed with the Welsh Language Officer.

*The **Welsh Language Standards** promote and facilitate the Welsh language and ensure that the Welsh language is not treated less favourably than the English language in Wales.*

Link: [Welsh language standards \(welshlanguagecommissioner.wales\)](https://welshlanguagecommissioner.wales)

A BMIS reporting portal is being designed to track progress made against the Gender Pay Gap, the average difference between the remuneration for men and women, action plan, based on tasks previously provided.

Discussions are in progress to design and implement a dashboard within BMIS to monitor the complaints procedure and provide a quarterly report.

We have continued to implement the Fire Authority decision of July 2021 to proceed to process cases affected by the Court decision regarding firefighter pension tapering. The member illustrations have been published and we are now working with the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) on a modeller which will provide more detailed information to those who are considering retiring.

GAD: This organisation sets the maximum allowable income amount that can be 'draw down' from a pension, every year. This figure is referred to as the GAD rate.

Information is being provided for those that are retiring from the Service but the whole remedy exercise is yet to be commenced for all other staff. Both RCT and SWFRS will face resourcing problems once the McCloud Pension Reform Exercise is started, which may impact on our ability to continue to deliver services to the standard that we would normally expect.

Providing Service information to RCT for Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) members back to 2014, as part of the Pensions Reform LGPS exercise, is currently underway and the due date has been extended from May 2022 to August 2022.

We continue to support the Joint Emergency Services Estate Group (JESEG) co-location strategy including reviewing current lease arrangements and replacing with revised cost recovery mechanisms.

We are considering implementing central BREXIT procurement and sustainability legislation register to assist monitoring.

JFC has not been able to progress the maintenance of audit trails, recordings, call audits etc., primarily due to crewing levels. Supervisors will be reminded to progress and provide an update by the next quarter.

New IRS data validation checks are in place and working successfully. Documentation to support the process is in progress and should be completed in Q2.

The Business Continuity Plan regarding the potential loss of real time training centre has been reviewed to ensure priorities and safety critical training can be delivered. Alternative premises have been reviewed including partnership agreements with Cardiff Airport facilities if required.

The development of an Information Asset Register, to help understand and manage the Service' information assets and the risks to them, is being progressed as a priority with team resource assigned.

New personnel have been recruited to the Information Governance and Compliance (IG&C) team.

We aim to start the gap analysis of data protection related records and rollout refresher training over the next few months. However, this training may be superseded by the need to create new training, matching the reform of data protection law which is anticipated over the next 6-12 months.

IG&C continue to support the HR Department with their Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs), a process to help identify and minimise the data protection risks. The Personal Review DPIA has been put forward as a case study. Materials for training are being worked on.

The re-establishment and scheduling of a programme of Data Protection surgeries, in collaboration with JFC and Occupational Health will be re-evaluated once the new IG&C Officer is in post and there is greater availability from JFC to attend.

A change in personnel will require an analysis of the Service' safeguarding plan and a final proposal presented to the Strategic Safeguarding Group. Subsequently the plan will be published on BMIS and tasks allocated accordingly.

The "out of hours" response issue within the draft version of the Cyber / Forensic Readiness Policy is still under discussion. We have also engaged with WG on Cymru SOC to look to deliver some aspects of needed response ability.

We are working towards submission to gain accreditation to Cyber Essentials Plus again in September, however, subject to complete of all work by the deadline.

A package of supporting information has been prepared to support future learning and Covid-19 public enquiry evidence.

8.2 Maximise value for money

We are continuing to work with PeopleXD (CoreHR) with the aim of achieving maximum benefits and efficiencies, e.g., by implementing a new LMS, automating the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Technical Test processes and we are aiming to move to CORE Portal, which will provide further efficiencies for us in the next quarter.

The RFTF has suffered several technical faults since opening. The team in Cardiff Gate, working with Lion, are continuously working to improve the performance of the facility. Once we have 12 months of full operational performance data from the facility, we will be in a position to create an accurate and costed options paper for the long-term facilities management.

Work with CS continues to map datasets and data collection processes.

8.3 Develop for a new normal way of working

A review of the flexible rostering system to improve service delivery has been carried out. 19 proposals have been discussed, with the Fire Brigades Union (FBU). Ongoing meetings will follow to further explore options.

Following the CS department restructure, several positions will be advertised once Job Descriptions are approved by HR. Once set and functional, all resources will need to be reviewed to ensure resourcing continues to be effective and appropriate.

The Gold, Silver, Bronze planning approach for campaigns and initiatives is in use by the Media and Communications Manager. Engagement leads are to be trained in their use.

The ACO People Services and Head of HR are currently considering the draft organisational EDI map before presenting to Senior Management.

Work on implementing the five areas (substantive posts, working conditions, structure, handback and environmental issues) of the JFC Review are ongoing.

Additional capacity in Stats Team has enabled process mapping with Insurance and Employee Relations to be progressed.

A monitoring cycle for departmental risks is in place. The risk register is regularly reviewed with Heads of Service/Risk Owners and process for consideration of emerging risks is embedding. Guidance document are being updated.

The exact scope and requirements of the development of the organisational filing system have not been determined. Head of Service Performance and Communication (SP&C) will continue to confirm the requirement.

Initial work is underway to collate any required information and evidence that we will need to design and implement a project methodology and documentation to be utilised at project initiation. Some members of the SP&C team have also attended the Learning and Development (L&D) masterclass on project management as preparation for undertaking this work stream.

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PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

Appendix 1

01 April – 30 June 2022



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
De Cymru

South Wales
Fire and Rescue Service

Produced in

BMIS
Business Management
Information System

Introduction

The Performance Monitoring Report highlights performance for the period 01 April 2022 to 30 June 2022. The report includes:

- Strategic Indicator Performance Summary..... Page 6
- Strategic Indicator Performance Comments.....Pages 7-10
- Analysis of incident activity levels by Unitary Authority Area (UAA).....Pages 11-15

The performance indicators included show six years of data to demonstrate how the organisation is performing for the communities via long term trends in performance.

Following consideration by the Senior Management Team and the Fire and Rescue Authority, the report is made available to the public via the internet.

During Q1 of 2022/23 the Service carried out 2,501 HSCs, 164 were refused and at 303 addresses we were unable to contact the occupier. More face-to-face interaction is taking place following lifting of pandemic restrictions.

For safety reasons during the pandemic the Business Fire Safety department was unable to carry out audits in the usual manner to premises, except to those that were deemed to be high risk. During Q1 the department has started to recommence activity as restrictions were eased and suitable risk assessments have been put in place.

Noticeable differences to the type of incidents that the Service has attended compared to last year include an increase in Assisting other agencies, which has risen from 126 incidents last year in Q1 to 145 incidents this year, an increase of 15%. Assistance to the Police/Ambulance has increased from 110 incidents last year to 112 incidents this year, an increase of 2%. Assistance to agencies other than the police/ambulance has also risen from 16 incidents last year to 33 incidents this year in Q1, an increase of 106%.

The Service has also experienced an increase in attendance to bariatric patients with incidents rising from 45 last year in Q1 to 47 incidents this year, an increase of 4%. Attendance by crews to suicide or attempted suicide fell during Q1 of this year. There were 12 incidents compared to 10 the year before, a decrease of 17%.

The Service Performance & Communications Department co-ordinates and compiles this report on behalf of the Service Delivery Directorate. Incident data is extracted from the Incident Recording System (IRS) and may be subject to change pending validation by the Statistics and Risk Team. Data for this report was extracted on 9th September 2022.

We are continually seeking to improve this report and welcome comments on additional information or other changes that you would like to see, please feel free to contact Neil Herniman at n-herniman@southwales-fire.gov.uk 01443 232775 or Suzanne Absalom on s-absalom@southwales-fire.gov.uk 01443 232588 to discuss.

Strategic Indicators 2022/23 – Q1 Performance

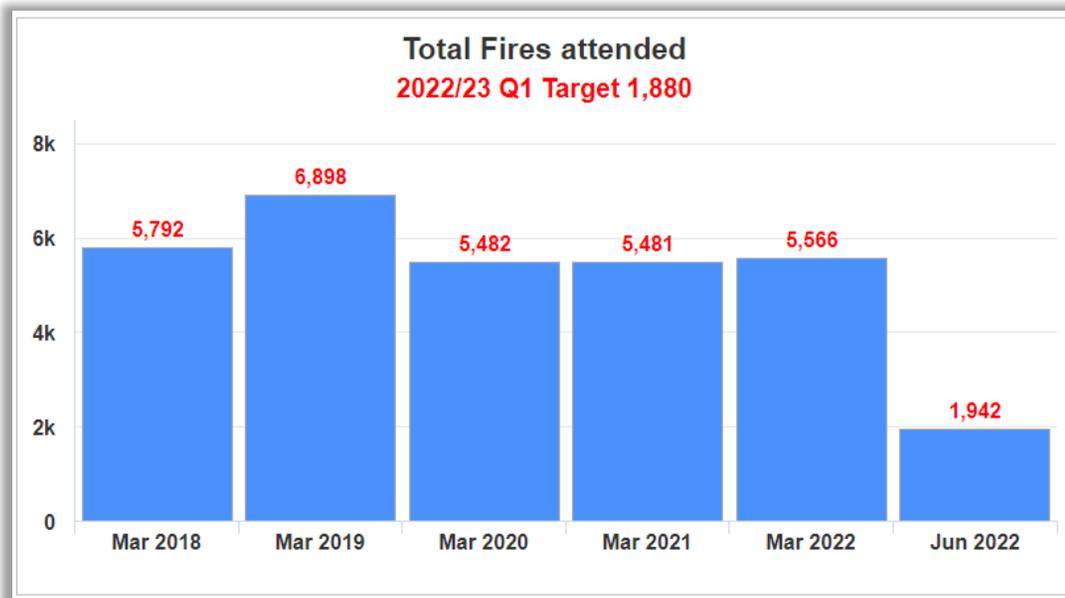
The sunburst below displays the progress of each Strategic Indicator based on its performance against the target set.

Performance Key	★ Better than or equal to target	● Up to 5% above target	▲ Over 5% from target
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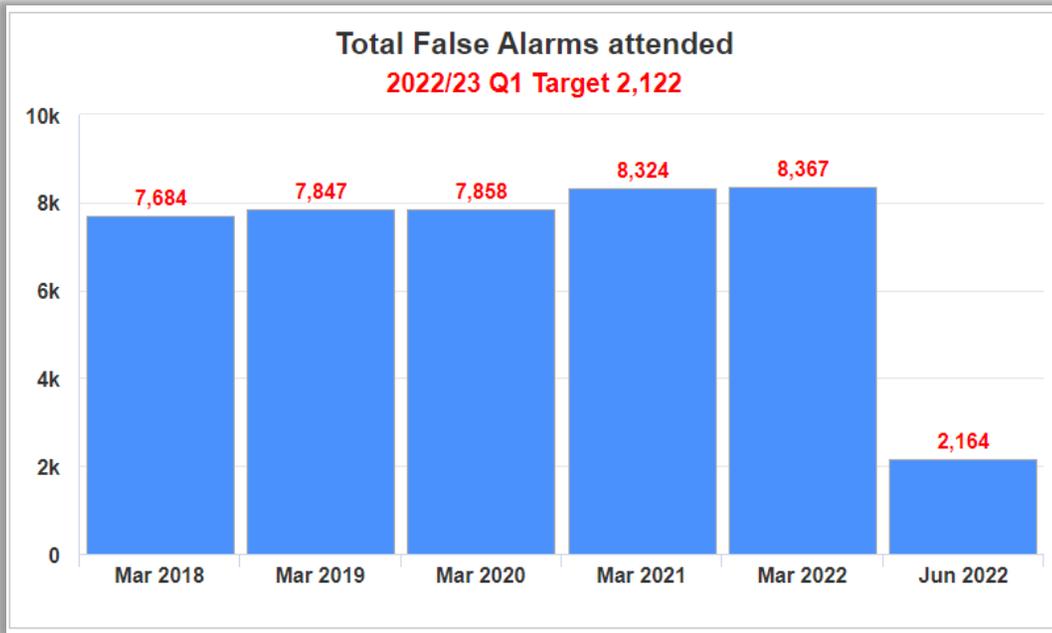
	Q1 22-23 (YTD)	Target (YTD)	Q1 2022/23 (YTD)	Q1 21-22 (YTD)
Total Fires Attended	1,942	1,880	●	1,909
Total RTCs Attended	165	210	★	212
Total False Alarms Attended	2,164	2,122	●	2,061
Total Other SSCs Attended	703	576	▲	678
% of Dwelling Fires Confined to Room of Origin	82.02%	85.00%	●	86.31%
Total Deaths and Injuries in Fires	14	18	★	14
Total Accidental Deaths and Injuries in Fires	13	15	★	13

Figures in the following charts show the total incidents for year ending on the month shown, eg, Mar 2022 is all incidents for year ending 2021/22. Figures for June 2022 for the the Q1 period only. Numbers in brackets in the commentary are figures for Q1 2021/22 in comparison to Q1 2022/23 and the corresponding percentage increase/decrease between the two figures.

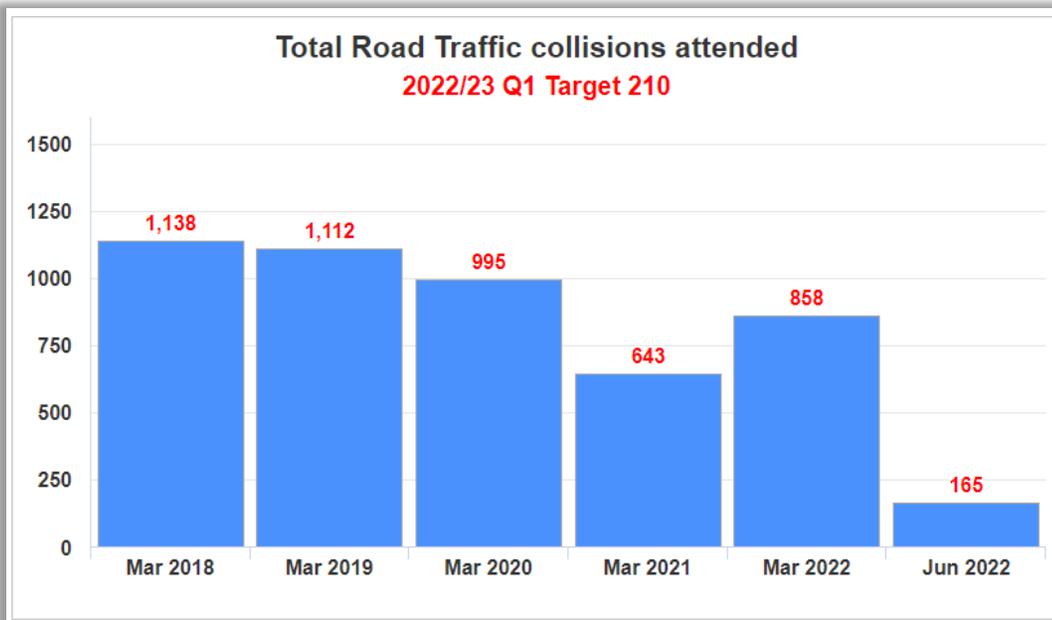


Q1 2022/23 Performance V Q1 2021/22

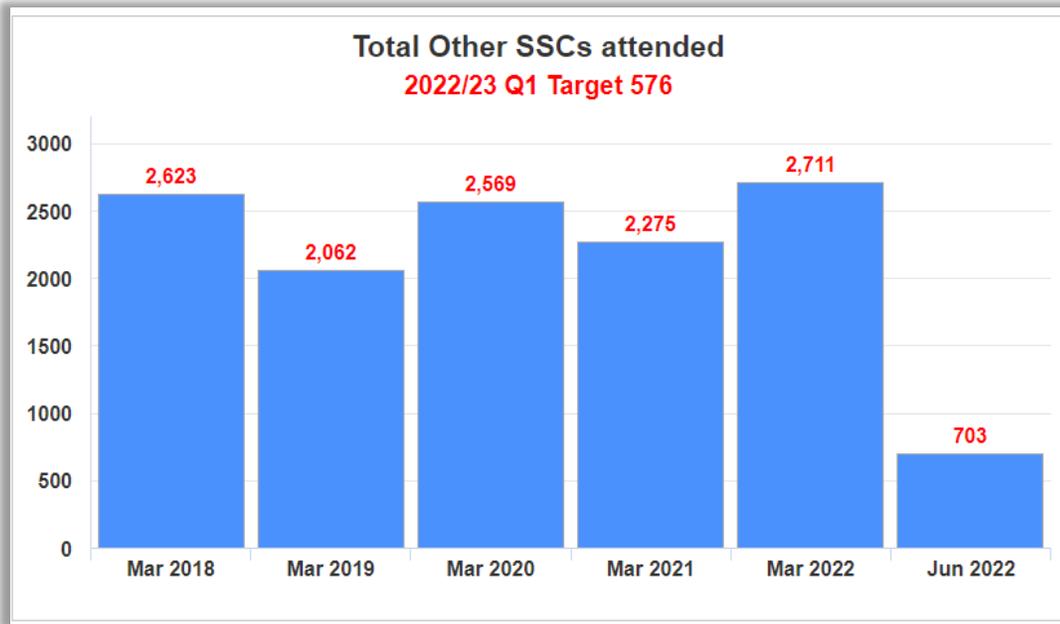
- Total fires (1,909 – 1,942) ↑ 2%, 3% **above** the target of 1,880.
- Accidental fires (475 – 469) ↓ 1%.
- Deliberate fires (1,434 – 1,473) ↑ 3%
- Deliberate Grass fires (525 – 489) ↓ 7%,
Deliberate refuse fires (737 – 719) ↓ 2%
- Deliberate Road vehicle fires (81 – 77) ↓ 5%,
- Deliberate fires accounted for 76% of all fires.



- #### Q1 2022/23 Performance V Q1 2021/22
- Total False Alarms (2,061 – 2,164) ↑ 103 (5%).
 - 2% **above** the target of 2,122.
 - False alarm due to apparatus (1,095 – 1,131) ↑ 3%.
 - False alarm good intent (895 – 953) ↑ 7%
 - False Alarm Malicious (71 – 80) ↑ 13%.
 - Residential homes (65 – 64) ↓ 2%, Education (109 – 138) ↑ 28%, Hospitals (123 – 143) ↓ 16%.
 - Appliances in attendance at Residential homes (100 – 94) ↓ 6%, Education (155 – 208) ↑ 34%, Hospitals (175 – 202) ↑ 15%.

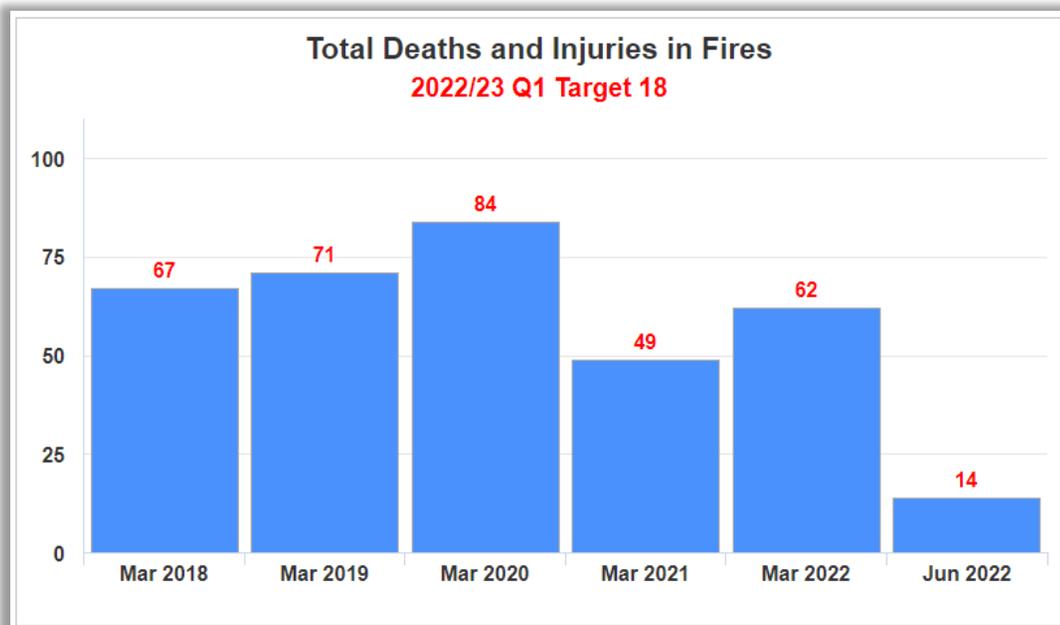


- #### Q1 2022/23 Performance V Q1 2021/22
- Total RTCs (212 – 165) ↓ 45 (-21%)
 - 20% **below** the target of 210
 - Numbers this year were higher than last year but were lower than the previous 4 years.
 - Extrications/release of persons in Q1 have risen from 34 of 212 (16%) to 33 of 170 (19%) this year.
 - Monmouthshire UA (10) experienced the highest numbers of extrications and release of persons in Q1.



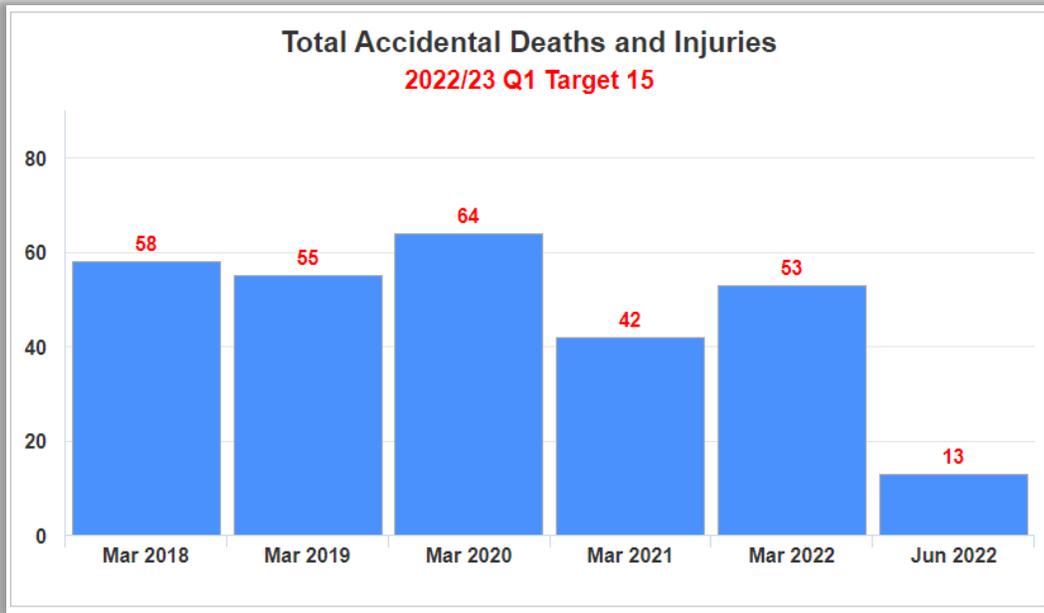
Q1 2022/23 Performance V Q1 2021/22

- Other SSCs (678 – 703) ↑ 18 (+4%).
- 22% **above** the target of 576.
- Effecting entry (63 to 108) ↑ 71%, removal of people from objects (30 to 33) ↑ 10%, animal assistance (61 to 48) ↓ 21%.
- Assisting other agencies (126 – 146) ↑ 16%, Bariatrics (45 – 47) ↑ 4%.
- Cardiff UA had the highest number of incidents with 202, an increase of 15% from the previous year in Q1.

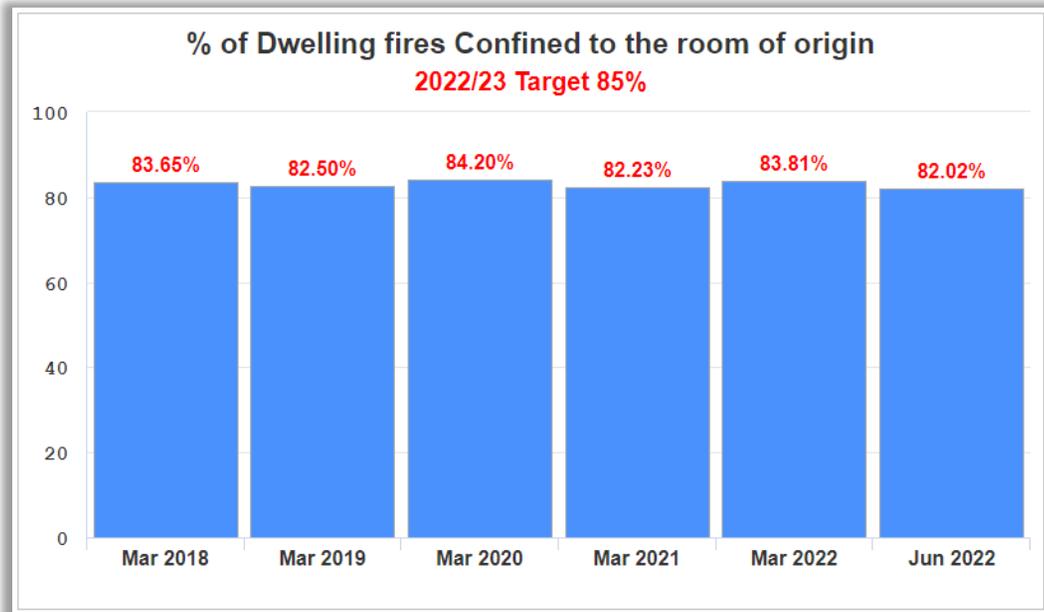


Q1 2022/23 Performance V Q1 2021/22

- Total fatalities and injuries have remained the same as last year with 14.
- 22% **below** the target of 18.
- 2 fatalities from fire, 1 more than last year in Q1.
- 1 was in an accidental dwelling fire, female 65 overcome by gas.
- There were 3 serious injuries the same as last year.
- There were 9 slight injuries compared to 10 last year.



- #### Q1 2022/23 Performance V Q1 2021/22
- Accidental fatalities and Injuries have remained the same as last year with 13.
 - 13% **below** the target of 15.
 - 1 fatality in an accidental dwelling fire, female 65 overcome by gas.
 - 1 fatality was in a vehicle fire.
 - There were 3 accidental serious injuries compared to 2 last year.
 - There were 8 accidental serious injuries compared to 10 last year.



- #### Q1 2022/23 Performance V Q1 2021/22
- 144 of 178 dwelling fires have been confined to the room of origin (82%).
 - This is **below** last year and is 3% **below** the target set of 85% at the start of the year.
 - Bridgend UA (16) had 100% of fires confined to the room of origin.
 - Caerphilly UA had the **lowest** percentage with 17 of the 24 (71%) confined to the room of origin.



Incident Categories	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q1	Q1 Last year	Q1 diff	Q1 %
Total Incidents	1003	121	72	88										281	309	-28	-9%
Special Service Calls	172	10	11	9										30	48	-18	-38%
Total RTCs Attended	37	0	0	1										1	8	-7	-88%
Total Other SSCs Attended	135	10	11	8										29	40	-11	-28%
Total False Alarms Attended	389	45	31	35										111	115	-4	-3%
Malicious False Alarms	9	0	0	1										1	2	-1	-50%
Good Intent False Alarms	193	31	20	18										69	63	6	10%
Automatic False Alarms	187	14	11	16										41	50	-9	-18%
Total Fires Attended	442	66	30	44										140	146	-6	-4%
Deliberate Fire	382	59	22	39										120	126	-6	-5%
Deliberate Grass Fire Attended	88	14	5	8										27	45	-18	-40%
Deliberate Refuse Fire Attended	219	38	12	26										76	62	14	23%
Accidental Fire	60	7	8	5										20	20	0	0%
Accidental Dwelling Fire Attended	22	1	3	1										5	9	-4	-44%
Total Deaths and Injuries in Fires	1	1	0	0										1	0	1	100%
Total Accidental Deaths and Injuries in Fires	0	0	0	0										0	0	0	0%

An analysis of the statistics relating to accidental dwelling fires suggest that the numbers have decreased by 44% compared to last year in Q1 with 5 in total compared to 9 last year. There was 1 incident in April, 3 in May and 1 in June. 1 of the 5 incidents was caused by cooking compared to 4 of 9 last year. 2 of the 5 fires were due to human factors with falling asleep the cause of 1 incident and the other was an unknown reason. The South Wales Fire and Rescue strategy to reduce accidental dwelling fires is closely linked to the Welsh Government wider social justice and supporting people agendas by targeting the most vulnerable groups within our society and making them safer within their homes. There was 1 slight injury in Q1 compared to no deaths or injuries last year in Q1. Attendance at effecting entry incidents has increased from 1 incident last year in Q1 to 9 incidents this year. 3 of these were for medical cases and 2 were because a child was involved. Assistance to other agencies has decreased from 7 last year to 5 this year. The number of road traffic collisions attended has decreased from 8 to 1 (-88%) with crews attending the incident to make the scene safe. Deliberate fire setting remains an issue within the UA and therefore stations will continue to seek opportunities to reduce the number of these types of incidents. Deliberate grass fires however have decreased by 40% from 45 to 27. Deliberate refuse fires have increased by 23% from 62 to 76. Automatic false alarms have decreased by 18% from 50 to 41. There were particularly high numbers in attendance at Industrial manufacturing properties with 9 incidents compared to 10 last year, the majority being to faulty alarms (6). Crews will continue to target premises that are identified on the Business Management Information system to identify causes and trends to be able to liaise with premises owners to provide advice on reducing these call outs. Malicious false alarms have decreased from 2 to 1 and there was a 10% increase in good intent false alarms (63 to 69) with calls to loose refuse accounting for most of this call type.



Incident Categories	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q1	Q1 Last year	Q1 diff	Q1 %
Total Incidents	1594	176	115	149										440	469	-29	-6%
Special Service Calls	375	19	27	36										82	92	-10	-11%
Total RTCs Attended	98	2	6	10										18	25	-7	-28%
Total Other SSCs Attended	277	17	21	26										64	67	-3	-4%
Total False Alarms Attended	764	69	55	64										188	203	-15	-7%
Malicious False Alarms	13	1	2	0										3	6	-3	-50%
Good Intent False Alarms	340	37	20	34										91	93	-2	-2%
Automatic False Alarms	411	31	33	29										93	104	-11	-11%
Total Fires Attended	455	88	33	49										170	174	-4	-2%
Deliberate Fire	322	66	24	33										123	126	-3	-2%
Deliberate Grass Fire Attended	117	36	5	6										47	48	-1	-2%
Deliberate Refuse Fire Attended	150	22	12	22										56	58	-2	-3%
Accidental Fire	133	22	8	16										46	48	-2	-4%
Accidental Dwelling Fire Attended	44	7	2	6										15	12	3	25%
Total Deaths and Injuries in Fires	5	0	1	0										1	2	-1	-100%
Total Accidental Deaths and Injuries in Fires	5	0	1	0										1	2	-1	-100%

An analysis of the statistics relating to accidental dwelling fires suggest that the numbers have increased slightly (+25%) compared to last year in Q1 with 15 compared to 12. There were 7 incidents in April, 2 in May and 6 in June. 5 of the 15 incidents were caused by cooking compared to 3 of 12 last year. 3 of the 15 fires were due to human factors with distraction (1), falling asleep (1) and the other was an unknown reason. The South Wales Fire and Rescue strategy to reduce accidental dwelling fires is closely linked to the Welsh Government wider social justice and supporting people agendas by targeting the most vulnerable groups within our society and making them safer within their homes. Sadly, there was 1 serious injury in Q1 in an accidental dwelling fire, a female aged 87 caused by candles. Attendance at Other special service calls have decreased from 67 to 64 (-4%) with assistance to other agencies increasing from 10 to 18 (+80%) compared to Q1 last year. We also attended 5 bariatric incidents compared to 6 last year. There were also increases to effecting entry incidents with numbers rising from 5 to 8 (+60%). The number of road traffic collisions attended has decreased from 25 to 18 (-28%) with crews attending 4 extrications/release of persons compared to 6 last year. Deliberate fire setting remains an issue within the UA and therefore stations will continue to seek opportunities to reduce the number of these types of incidents. Deliberate grass fires however have decreased by 2% from 48 to 47. Deliberate refuse fires have decreased by 3% from 58 to 56. Automatic false alarms have decreased by 11% from 104 to 93. There was an increase in attendance at educational premises (8 to 10) and Residential homes (5 to 8), but most other property types experienced a decrease in calls. Crews will continue to target premises that are identified on the Business Management Information system to identify causes and trends to be able to liaise with premises owners to provide advice on reducing these call outs. Malicious false alarms have decreased from 6 to 3 (-50%). There was a 2% (93 to 91) decrease in good intent false alarms with calls to residential homes accounting for most of these calls.



Incident Categories	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q1	Q1 Last year	Q1 diff	Q1 %
Total Incidents	2044	262	170	181										613	589	24	4%
Special Service Calls	346	27	22	20										69	85	-16	-19%
Total RTCs Attended	88	8	7	4										19	22	-3	-14%
Total Other SSCs Attended	258	19	15	16										50	63	-13	-21%
Total False Alarms Attended	817	79	61	80										220	216	4	2%
Malicious False Alarms	17	1	0	5										6	4	2	50%
Good Intent False Alarms	418	48	43	40										131	137	-6	-4%
Automatic False Alarms	382	30	18	35										83	75	8	11%
Total Fires Attended	881	156	87	81										324	288	36	13%
Deliberate Fire	696	134	69	59										262	230	32	14%
Deliberate Grass Fire Attended	163	54	25	12										91	93	-2	-2%
Deliberate Refuse Fire Attended	440	69	27	35										131	108	23	21%
Accidental Fire	185	22	18	22										62	58	4	7%
Accidental Dwelling Fire Attended	66	8	8	4										20	15	5	33%
Total Deaths and Injuries in Fires	11	0	1	0										1	2	-1	-100%
Total Accidental Deaths and Injuries in Fires	10	0	1	0										1	2	-1	-100%

An analysis of the statistics relating to accidental dwelling fires suggest that there has been an increase of 33% in incidents compared to last year. The number of incidents has risen from 15 to 20. There were 8 incidents in April, 8 in May and 4 in June. 8 of the 20 incidents were caused by cooking compared to 7 of 15 last year. 10 of the fires were due to human factors with disabled persons involved in 3 incidents and 2 others were distractions. The South Wales Fire and Rescue strategy to reduce accidental dwelling fires is closely linked to the Welsh Government wider social justice and supporting people agendas by targeting the most vulnerable groups within our society and making them safer within their homes. Sadly, there was a fatality in Q1, a 43-year-old male in a vehicle fire. Attendance at Other special service calls have decreased by 21%. Assistance to other agencies has decreased from 18 to 11 (-39%) compared to last year. There were increases to animal assistance incidents from 5 to 8 (+60%) and effecting entry incidents, 3 to 7 (+133%). The number of road traffic collisions attended has decreased from 22 to 19 (-14%) with crews attending 5 extrications/release of persons compared to 4 last year. Deliberate fire setting remains an issue within the UA and therefore stations will continue to seek opportunities to reduce the number of these types of incidents. Deliberate grass fires however have decreased by 2% from 93 to 91. Deliberate refuse fires have increased by 21% from 108 to 131. Automatic false alarms have increased by 11% from 75 to 83. There was a slight decrease in attendance at industrial manufacturing (16 to 14) but incidents at educational premises increased from 5 to 12 (+140%). Crews will continue to target premises that are identified on the Business Management Information system to identify causes and trends to be able to liaise with premises owners to provide advice on reducing these call outs. Malicious false alarms have increased from 4 to 6 (+50%). There was a 4% decrease in good intent false alarms with calls to loose refuse being the reason for most of these calls.



Incident Categories	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q1	Q1 Last year	Q1 diff	Q1 %
Total Incidents	4076	371	364	372										1107	1039	68	7%
Special Service Calls	863	63	89	83										235	216	19	9%
Total RTCs Attended	156	10	12	11										33	40	-7	-18%
Total Other SSCs Attended	707	53	77	72										202	176	26	15%
Total False Alarms Attended	2217	182	169	199										550	491	59	12%
Malicious False Alarms	76	10	11	3										24	20	4	20%
Good Intent False Alarms	706	57	53	71										181	163	18	11%
Automatic False Alarms	1435	115	105	125										345	308	37	12%
Total Fires Attended	996	126	106	90										322	332	-10	-3%
Deliberate Fire	657	100	74	60										234	235	-1	0%
Deliberate Grass Fire Attended	129	38	11	16										65	66	-1	-2%
Deliberate Refuse Fire Attended	402	53	45	33										131	144	-13	-9%
Accidental Fire	339	26	32	30										88	97	-9	-9%
Accidental Dwelling Fire Attended	164	12	8	14										34	43	-9	-21%
Total Deaths and Injuries in Fires	11	0	1	0										1	3	-2	-200%
Total Accidental Deaths and Injuries in Fires	8	0	1	0										1	3	-2	-200%

An analysis of the statistics relating to accidental dwelling fires suggest that there has been a decrease of 21% in incidents compared to last year. The number of incidents has fallen from 43 to 34 in Q1. There was 12 incidents April, 8 in May and 14 in June. 10 of the 34 (29%) incidents were caused by cooking which was lower than last year when there was 16 of 43 (37%) fires caused by cooking. 21 of the 34 fires were due to human factors with distraction (9) the main reason. The South Wales Fire and Rescue strategy to reduce accidental dwelling fires is closely linked to the Welsh Government wider social justice and supporting people agendas by targeting the most vulnerable groups within our society and making them safer within their homes. There was 1 slight injury in May compared to 3 slight injuries in Q1 last year. Attendance at Other special service calls have increased by 15% with assistance to other agencies increasing from 30 to 41 (+37%) compared to last year. There was also an increase to effecting entry/exit, 20 to 41 (+105%). The number of road traffic collisions attended has decreased from 40 to 33 (-18%) with crews attending 5 extrications/release of persons which was 2 more than last year. Most of the calls received were making the scene/vehicle safe (20). Deliberate fire setting remains an issue within the UA and therefore stations will continue to seek opportunities to reduce the number of these types of incidents. Deliberate grass fires however have decreased by 1% from 66 to 65. Deliberate refuse fires have also decreased by 9% from 144 to 131. Automatic false alarms have increased by 12% from 308 to 345. There was an increase in attendance hospitals (51 to 54) and educational properties (22 to 36). Crews will continue to target premises that are identified on the Business Management Information system to identify causes and trends to be able to liaise with premises owners to provide advice on reducing these call outs. Malicious false alarms have increased from 20 to 24 (+20%). There was a 11% (163 to 181) increase in good intent false alarms with calls to domestic premises accounting for most of these calls.



Incident Categories	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q1	Q1 Last year	Q1 diff	Q1 %
Total Incidents	828	81	70	48										199	259	-60	-23%
Special Service Calls	152	9	14	7										30	34	-4	-12%
Total RTCs Attended	49	1	3	1										5	11	-6	-55%
Total Other SSCs Attended	103	8	11	6										25	23	2	9%
Total False Alarms Attended	345	26	23	20										69	68	1	1%
Malicious False Alarms	14	2	2	0										4	3	1	33%
Good Intent False Alarms	134	18	9	9										36	39	-3	-8%
Automatic False Alarms	197	6	12	11										29	26	3	12%
Total Fires Attended	331	46	33	21										100	157	-57	-36%
Deliberate Fire	264	40	25	18										83	134	-51	-38%
Deliberate Grass Fire Attended	117	24	5	8										37	84	-47	-56%
Deliberate Refuse Fire Attended	111	15	14	6										35	41	-6	-15%
Accidental Fire	67	6	8	3										17	23	-6	-26%
Accidental Dwelling Fire Attended	30	5	4	2										11	11	0	0%
Total Deaths and Injuries in Fires	3	2	2	0										4	1	3	300%
Total Accidental Deaths and Injuries in Fires	3	2	2	0										4	1	3	300%

An analysis of the statistics relating to accidental dwelling fires suggest that there has been the same number of incidents this year as last year in Q1 with 11 incidents. There were 5 incidents in April, 4 in May and 2 in June. 6 of the 11 (55%) incidents were caused by cooking which was 2 more than last year. 8 of the fires were due to human factors with falling asleep (4) and unknown circumstances (2) the main reasons. The South Wales Fire and Rescue strategy to reduce accidental dwelling fires is closely linked to the Welsh Government wider social justice and supporting people agendas by targeting the most vulnerable groups within our society and making them safer within their homes. Sadly, there was 1 fatality in Q1, a female aged 65 caused by cooking. There were 2 slight injuries and 1 serious injury. Attendance at Other special service calls have increased by 9% with assisting other agencies the main incident type (7) rising from 2 last year in Q1. The number of road traffic collisions attended has decreased from 11 to 5 (-55%) with crews attending 1 extrications/release of persons compared to 3 last year. The other calls were to making the scene/vehicle safe (2) and the other 2 were to a medical incident. Deliberate fire setting remains an issue within the UA and therefore stations will continue to seek opportunities to reduce the number of these types of incidents. Deliberate refuse fires however have decreased by 15% from 41 to 35. Deliberate grass fires have also decreased by 56% from 84 to 37. Automatic false alarms have increased by 12% from 26 to 29. There were 12 calls to hospitals and medical care and 5 calls to educational properties. Crews will continue to target premises that are identified on the Business Management Information system to identify causes and trends to be able to liaise with premises owners to provide advice on reducing these call outs. Malicious false alarms have increased from 3 to 4. There was an 8% (39 to 36) reduction in good intent false alarms with calls to loose refuse and domestic properties accounting for most of these calls.



Incident Categories	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q1	Q1 Last year	Q1 diff	Q1 %
Total Incidents	905	75	88	99										262	228	34	15%
Special Service Calls	230	19	23	23										65	64	1	2%
Total RTCs Attended	76	6	10	5										21	24	-3	-13%
Total Other SSCs Attended	154	13	13	18										44	40	4	10%
Total False Alarms Attended	475	32	44	45										121	108	13	12%
Malicious False Alarms	3	1	1	0										2	0	2	200%
Good Intent False Alarms	143	18	16	14										48	38	10	26%
Automatic False Alarms	329	13	27	31										71	70	1	1%
Total Fires Attended	200	24	21	31										76	56	20	36%
Deliberate Fire	66	10	8	14										32	22	10	45%
Deliberate Grass Fire Attended	20	1	1	6										8	12	-4	-33%
Deliberate Refuse Fire Attended	21	8	3	7										18	6	12	200%
Accidental Fire	134	14	13	17										44	34	10	29%
Accidental Dwelling Fire Attended	29	4	3	3										10	3	7	233%
Total Deaths and Injuries in Fires	3	1	0	0										1	0	1	100%
Total Accidental Deaths and Injuries in Fires	2	1	0	0										1	0	1	100%

An analysis of the statistics relating to accidental dwelling fires suggest that there has been an increase of 233% in incidents compared to last year. The number of incidents has risen from 3 to 10. There was 4 incidents April, 3 in May and 3 in June. The main causes of the accidental dwelling fires in Monmouthshire UA were cooking (5). 4 of the 10 fires were because of human factors with falling asleep accounting for 2 incidents. The South Wales Fire and Rescue strategy to reduce accidental dwelling fires is closely linked to the Welsh Government wider social justice and supporting people agendas by targeting the most vulnerable groups within our society and making them safer within their homes. Sadly, there was 1 serious injury in Q1, a male aged 92 caused by cooking. Attendance at Other special service calls have increased by 10% with assistance to other agencies increasing from 7 to 9 (+29%) compared to last year. There were also 5 calls to flooding compared to 1 last year. The number of road traffic collisions attended has reduced from 24 to 21 (-13%) with crews attending 10 extrications/release of persons compared to 9 last year in Q1. 7 of the calls were making the scene/vehicle safe. Deliberate fire setting remains an issue within the UA and therefore stations will continue to seek opportunities to reduce the number of these types of incidents as restrictions are eased. Deliberate grass fires, however, have decreased by 33% from 12 to 8. Deliberate refuse fires however have increased by 200% from 6 to 18. Automatic false alarms have increased by 1% from 70 to 71. There was a decrease in calls to hospitals from 10 to 7 and residential homes from 7 to 1 but educational premises experienced an increase from 8 to 9. Crews will continue to target premises that are identified on the Business Management Information system to identify causes and trends to be able to liaise with premises owners to provide advice on reducing these call outs. Malicious false alarms have increased from 0 to 2. There was a 26% (38 to 48) increase in good intent false alarms with calls to dwellings accounting for most of these calls.



Incident Categories	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q1	Q1 Last year	Q1 diff	Q1 %
Total Incidents	2181	232	189	188										609	573	36	6%
Special Service Calls	360	36	20	26										82	91	-9	-10%
Total RTCs Attended	72	4	8	4										16	11	5	45%
Total Other SSCs Attended	288	32	12	22										66	80	-14	-18%
Total False Alarms Attended	1068	111	86	80										277	273	4	1%
Malicious False Alarms	64	7	4	5										16	12	4	33%
Good Intent False Alarms	351	43	30	32										105	100	5	5%
Automatic False Alarms	653	61	52	43										156	161	-5	-3%
Total Fires Attended	753	85	83	82										250	209	41	20%
Deliberate Fire	574	71	63	62										196	166	30	18%
Deliberate Grass Fire Attended	70	14	13	17										44	27	17	63%
Deliberate Refuse Fire Attended	384	31	30	33										94	114	-20	-18%
Accidental Fire	179	14	20	20										54	43	11	26%
Accidental Dwelling Fire Attended	67	5	6	6										17	14	3	21%
Total Deaths and Injuries in Fires	8	0	0	0										0	3	-3	-300%
Total Accidental Deaths and Injuries in Fires	6	0	0	0										0	2	-2	-200%

An analysis of the statistics relating to accidental dwelling fires suggest that there has been an increase of 21% in incidents compared to last year. The number of incidents has risen from 14 to 17. There were 5 incidents in April, 6 in May and 6 in June. 7 of the incidents were caused by cooking compared to 4 last year in Q1. 12 of the 17 fires were due to human factors with distraction (5) and unknown reason (3) the main reasons. The South Wales Fire and Rescue strategy to reduce accidental dwelling fires is closely linked to the Welsh Government wider social justice and supporting people agendas by targeting the most vulnerable groups within our society and making them safer within their homes. There were no deaths or injuries in Q1. Attendance at Other special service calls have decreased by 18%, although assistance to other agencies has risen from 10 to 16 incidents. There were 4 calls to bariatric incidents compared to 5 last year in Q1. The number of road traffic collisions attended has increased from 11 to 16 (+45%) with crews attending no extrications/release of persons compared to 1 last year in Q1. Most of the calls were making the scene/vehicle safe (10). Deliberate fire setting remains an issue within the UA and therefore stations will continue to seek opportunities to reduce the number of these types of incidents. Deliberate grass fires have increased by 63% from 27 to 44. Deliberate refuse fires have decreased by 18% from 114 to 94. Automatic false alarms have decreased by 3% from 161 to 156. Calls to hospitals however increased from (12 to 20) but there was a decrease in calls to educational premises from 28 to 12 and retail premises 14 to 7. Crews will continue to target premises that are identified on the Business Management Information system to identify causes and trends to be able to liaise with premises owners to provide advice on reducing these call outs. Malicious false alarms have increased from 12 to 16 (+33%) and there was a 5% increase in good intent false alarms (100 to 105).



Incident Categories	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q1	Q1 Last year	Q1 diff	Q1 %
Total Incidents	2548	335	209	215										759	784	-25	-3%
Special Service Calls	464	50	48	51										149	138	11	8%
Total RTCs Attended	165	11	7	11										29	44	-15	-34%
Total Other SSCs Attended	399	39	41	40										120	94	26	28%
Total False Alarms Attended	1078	119	70	88										277	310	-33	-11%
Malicious False Alarms	33	11	2	1										14	11	3	27%
Good Intent False Alarms	482	63	38	38										139	156	-17	-11%
Automatic False Alarms	563	45	30	49										124	143	-19	-13%
Total Fires Attended	906	166	91	76										333	336	-3	-1%
Deliberate Fire	665	148	70	53										271	274	-3	-1%
Deliberate Grass Fire Attended	204	80	32	13										125	115	10	9%
Deliberate Refuse Fire Attended	374	58	20	27										105	134	-29	-22%
Accidental Fire	241	18	21	23										62	62	0	0%
Accidental Dwelling Fire Attended	101	8	10	7										25	23	2	9%
Total Deaths and Injuries in Fires	12	0	1	0										1	0	1	100%
Total Accidental Deaths and Injuries in Fires	11	0	1	0										1	0	1	100%

An analysis of the statistics relating to accidental dwelling fires suggest that there has been a 9% increase in incidents compared to last year. The number of incidents has risen from 23 to 25. There were 8 incidents in April, 10 in May and 7 in June. 15 of the incidents were caused by cooking compared to 6 last year. 66 of the 20 fires were due to human factors with distraction (8) and falling asleep (3) the main reasons for the incidents. The South Wales Fire and Rescue strategy to reduce accidental dwelling fires is closely linked to the Welsh Government wider social justice and supporting people agendas by targeting the most vulnerable groups within our society and making them safer within their homes. There was 1 slight injury in Q1 which was the same as last year. Attendance at Other special service calls have increased by 28% but assistance to other agencies have decreased slightly from 25 to 22 compared to Q1 last year. There were also 10 calls to bariatric incidents compared to 7 last year. The number of road traffic collisions attended has decreased from 44 to 29 (-34%) with crews attending 4 extrications/release of persons compared to 5 last year in Q1. Most of the calls were making the scene/vehicle safe (22). Deliberate fire setting remains an issue within the UA and therefore stations will continue to seek opportunities to reduce the number of these types of incidents. Deliberate grass fires have increased by 9% from 115 to 125. Deliberate refuse fires however have decreased by 22% from 134 to 105. Automatic false alarms have decreased by 13% from 143 to 124. There was a decrease in calls to residential homes from 18 to 9. Calls to educational properties (14 to 19) and hospitals (9 to 11) however have increased. Crews will continue to target premises that are identified on the Business Management Information system to identify causes and trends to be able to liaise with premises owners to provide advice on reducing these call outs. Malicious false alarms have increased from 11 to 14 (+27%). There was a 11% (156 to 139) decrease in good intent false alarms with calls to dwellings and loose refuse accounting for most of these calls.



Incident Categories	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q1	Q1 Last year	Q1 diff	Q1 %
Total Incidents	1110	119	147	112										378	290	88	30%
Special Service Calls	207	17	23	19										59	54	5	9%
Total RTCs Attended	43	1	3	4										8	10	-2	-20%
Total Other SSCs Attended	164	16	20	15										51	44	7	16%
Total False Alarms Attended	601	46	79	58										183	129	54	42%
Malicious False Alarms	18	3	4	0										7	9	-2	-22%
Good Intent False Alarms	182	13	31	30										74	49	25	51%
Automatic False Alarms	401	30	44	28										102	71	31	44%
Total Fires Attended	302	56	45	35										136	107	29	27%
Deliberate Fire	187	40	36	24										100	67	33	49%
Deliberate Grass Fire Attended	40	20	14	6										40	18	22	122%
Deliberate Refuse Fire Attended	105	15	9	12										36	39	-3	-8%
Accidental Fire	115	16	9	11										36	40	-4	-10%
Accidental Dwelling Fire Attended	34	7	4	2										13	12	1	8%
Total Deaths and Injuries in Fires	5	1	0	1										2	1	1	100%
Total Accidental Deaths and Injuries in Fires	5	1	0	1										2	1	1	100%

An analysis of the statistics relating to accidental dwelling fires suggest that there has been an increase of 8% in incidents compared to last year in Q1. The number of incidents has risen from 12 to 13. There were 7 incidents in April, 4 in May and 2 in June. 5 of the incidents were caused by cooking compared to 6 last year in Q1. 7 of the 13 fires were due to human factors, including distraction (4) and falling asleep (1). The South Wales Fire and Rescue strategy to reduce accidental dwelling fires is closely linked to the Welsh Government wider social justice and supporting people agendas by targeting the most vulnerable groups within our society and making them safer within their homes. There were 2 slight injuries in Q1 compared to 1 in Q1 last year. Attendance at Other special service calls have increased by 16%, with assistance to other agencies rising from 7 to 9. There were also 4 calls to bariatric incidents compared to 3 last year in Q1. Removal of objects from people saw a rise from 2 incidents to 4 in Q1. The number of road traffic collisions attended has decreased from 10 to 8 (-20%) with crews attending 1 extrications/release of persons which was 1 less than last year. Most of the calls were making the scene/vehicle safe (5). Deliberate fire setting remains an issue within the UA and therefore stations will continue to seek opportunities to reduce the number of these types of incidents. Deliberate grass fires have increased by 122% from 18 to 40. Deliberate refuse fires however have decreased by 8% from 39 to 36. Automatic false alarms have increased by 44% from 71 to 102. Calls to Industrial manufacturing (4 to 12) and residential homes (3 to 12) have experienced the largest increases. Crews will continue to target premises that are identified on the Business Management Information system to identify causes and trends to be able to liaise with premises owners to provide advice on reducing these call outs. Malicious false alarms have decreased from 9 to 7. There was, however, a 51% (49 to 74) increase in good intent false alarms with calls to dwellings and loose refuse accounting for most of the incidents.



Incident Categories	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q1	Q1 Last year	Q1 diff	Q1 %
Total Incidents	1213	120	84	119										323	320	3	1%
Special Service Calls	300	27	20	17										64	68	-4	-6%
Total RTCs Attended	74	7	4	4										15	17	-2	-12%
Total Other SSCs Attended	226	20	16	13										49	51	-2	-4%
Total False Alarms Attended	613	53	42	72										167	148	19	13%
Malicious False Alarms	14	2	0	1										3	4	-1	-25%
Good Intent False Alarms	219	24	27	26										77	57	20	35%
Automatic False Alarms	380	27	15	45										87	87	0	0%
Total Fires Attended	300	40	22	30										92	104	-12	-12%
Deliberate Fire	155	22	14	16										52	54	-2	-4%
Deliberate Grass Fire Attended	41	1	1	3										5	17	-12	-71%
Deliberate Refuse Fire Attended	94	15	10	11										36	31	5	16%
Accidental Fire	145	18	8	14										40	50	-10	-20%
Accidental Dwelling Fire Attended	57	5	2	1										8	16	-8	-50%
Total Deaths and Injuries in Fires	3	1	0	1										2	2	0	0%
Total Accidental Deaths and Injuries in Fires	3	1	0	1										2	2	0	0%

An analysis of the statistics relating to accidental dwelling fires suggest that there has been a decrease of 50% in incidents compared to last year. The number of incidents has fallen from 16 to 8. There were 5 incidents in April, 2 in May and 1 in June. 4 of the incidents were caused by cooking compared to 8 last year. 4 of the fires were due to human factors, including distraction (2) and not known reasons (2). The South Wales Fire and Rescue strategy to reduce accidental dwelling fires is closely linked to the Welsh Government wider social justice and supporting people agendas by targeting the most vulnerable groups within our society and making them safer within their homes. There were 2 slight injuries this year in Q1, compared to 1 serious and 1 slight injury last year in Q1. Attendance at Other special service calls have decreased by 4%, with assistance to other agencies also decreasing from 10 to 6 (-40%). Effecting entry has risen from 6 to 8 (+33%). There were also 1 call to a bariatric incident compared to 3 last year in Q1. The number of road traffic collisions attended has decreased from 17 to 15 (12%) with crews attending 2 extrications/release of persons compared to 3 last year in Q1. Most of the calls were making the scene/vehicle safe (13). Deliberate fire setting remains an issue within the UA and therefore stations will continue to seek opportunities to reduce the number of these types of incidents. Deliberate grass fires however have decreased from 17 to 5 (-71%). Deliberate refuse fires have increased by 16% from 31 to 36. Automatic false alarms have remained the same as last year in Q1 with 87 incidents. There was an increase in calls to hospitals from 10 to 19 (+90%) and calls to educational properties have also increased from 6 to 20 (+233%) compared to last year. Crews will continue to target premises that are identified on the Business Management Information system to identify causes and trends to be able to liaise with premises owners to provide advice on reducing these call outs. Malicious false alarms have decreased from 4 to 3 and there was an increase of 35% in good intent false alarms from 57 to 77 with calls to dwellings and loose refuse accounting for most of these calls.

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Chris Barton
Treasurer
South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority
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Reference: AGW171/mh
Date issued: 28 July 2022

Dear Chris

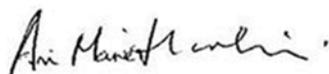
South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority
Audit of Accounts 2021/2022
Notice of Certification of Completion of the Audit

I am pleased to be able to advise you that the audit of your Authority's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 has been completed. I have not had to issue a report in the public interest under Section 22 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

May I draw your attention to:

- Regulation 13 of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014, which requires the Authority to display on its website and in at least one conspicuous place in its area a notice that the audit has been concluded and that the statement of accounts is available for inspection by local government electors; and
- Regulation 27 of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014, which require audited bodies to publish the annual audit letter as soon as is reasonably possible after it is received and to keep copies available for purchase by any person on payment of a reasonable sum.

Yours sincerely



Ann-Marie Harkin
For and On Behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

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**FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME FOR
FINANCE, AUDIT & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2022/23**

Expected Date of Report	Report Name	Purpose of Piece of Work	Information /Decision	Lead Director/ Contact Officer	Progress
As required	Audit Wales Reports	To advise Members of the conclusions of Audit Wales reports and to consider the implications for the Service	D	T/ACO CS Contact Officer: Geraint Thomas	
As required	Internal Audit Progress Report & Audit Action Updates	To provide an updated position of work performed against the internal audit plan and to highlight any significant issues arising from the internal audit work performed	I	T/ACO CS Contact Officer: Lisa Mullan	
As required	Performance Report	To scrutinise specific issues of performance identified and referred by Fire Authority	I	ACFO SD Contact Officer: Sarah Watkins	
As required	Statistics Report	To scrutinise specific statistics or trends as identified and referred by the Fire Authority	I	T/ACO CS Contact Officer: Sarah Watkins	
25 July 2022	Revenue Outturn	To advise on total revenue expenditure for the year against the set revenue budget following the year end and to explain variations and impact on reserves	D	Treasurer Contact Officer: Lisa Mullan	Completed

Expected Date of Report	Report Name	Purpose of Piece of Work	Information /Decision	Lead Director/ Contact Officer	Progress
25 July 2022	Capital Outturn	To advise on total capital expenditure for the year against the set capital budget following the year end and to explain variations	D	Treasurer Contact Officer: Lisa Mullan	Completed
25 July 2022	Audit Wales Audit Plan 2022	To advise Members of the work set out by Audit Wales to be undertaken during 2022	I	T/ACO CS Contact Officer: Lisa Mullan	Completed
25 July 2022	Audited Statement of Accounts	To advise Members of the content of the Audited Statement of Accounts	I	Treasurer Contact Officer: Lisa Mullan	Completed
25 July 2022	Audit Accounts report (ISA 260 Report)	To advise Members of the content of the Auditor General's ISA 260 report including the final letter of representation, proposed audit opinion and corrections/recommendations	I	Treasurer Contact Officer: Lisa Mullan	Completed
10 Oct 2022	Medium Term Financial Strategy Update, Reserves Strategy and Revenue & Capital Budget Setting Report	To update Members on the MTFS to inform and influence the budget setting process to meet the Service's requirements for the following financial year	D	Treasurer Contact Officer: Lisa Mullan	On agenda

Expected Date of Report	Report Name	Purpose of Piece of Work	Information /Decision	Lead Director/ Contact Officer	Progress
10 Oct 2022	Revenue Monitor	To provide an update on revenue expenditure against the revenue budget for the year	D	Treasurer Contact Officer: Lisa Mullan	On agenda
10 Oct 2022	Capital Monitor	To provide an update on capital expenditure against the capital budget for the year	D	Treasurer Contact Officer: Lisa Mullan	On agenda
10 Oct 2022	Treasury Management Outturn Report	To advise on performance against the treasury management policy and strategy following financial year end	I	Treasurer Contact Officer: Lisa Mullan	On agenda
10 Oct 2022	Health Check of Priority Actions and Q1 progress against the Statutory PI's	To scrutinise progress of the Service's Priority Actions and statutory PI's as at the end of Q1	I	T/ACO CS & ACFO SD Contact Officer: Sarah Watkins	On agenda
10 Oct 2022	Audit Wales Final Audit Letter	To advise on conclusion of financial audit	I	Treasurer Contact Officer: Lisa Mullan	On agenda
5 Dec 2022	Revenue Monitor	To provide an update on revenue expenditure against the revenue budget for the year	D	Treasurer Contact Officer: Lisa Mullan	

Expected Date of Report	Report Name	Purpose of Piece of Work	Information /Decision	Lead Director/ Contact Officer	Progress
5 Dec 2022	Capital Monitor	To provide an update on capital expenditure against the capital budget for the year	D	Treasurer Contact Officer: Lisa Mullan	
5 Dec 2022	Revenue & Capital Budget Setting Update Report	To assist in determining the appropriate revenue & capital budget required to meet the Service's requirements for the financial year	D	Treasurer Contact Officer: Lisa Mullan	
5 Dec 2022	Treasury Management Interim Report	To update Members on treasury management activity during the year to date	I	Treasurer Contact Officer: Lisa Mullan	
5 Dec 2022	Audit & Plan Scheme Updates	To seek Members' views upon the progress of Audit & Plan Scheme Actions	I	T/ACO CS Contact Officer: Sarah Watkins	
5 Dec 2022	Annual Audit Plan Financial Audits	To advise Members of the proposed timetable for financial audits in the forthcoming audit year	I	Treasurer Contact Officer: Lisa Mullan	
13 March 2023	Treasury Management Strategy Report	To secure Members' approval to the adoption of the Treasury Management Strategy for the following financial year	D	Treasurer Contact Officer: Lisa Mullan	

Expected Date of Report	Report Name	Purpose of Piece of Work	Information /Decision	Lead Director/ Contact Officer	Progress
13 March 2023	Draft Annual Report of the Work of the FAPM Committee and the Discharge of the Terms of Reference of the Finance, Asset & Performance Management Scrutiny Group	To consider the draft report on the annual work of the Committee before its submission to the Fire Authority and to ensure the Authority has efficient use of resources and robust procedures in place to ensure and manage this	D	Chair of FAPM & T/ACO CS Contact Officer: Sarah Watkins	
13 March 2023	Internal Audit Programme	To outline the planned internal audit coverage for the financial year and to seek comment and approval	D	T/ACO CS Contact Officer: Lisa Mullan	
13 March 2023	Revenue Monitor	To provide an update on revenue expenditure against the revenue budget for the year	D	Treasurer Contact Officer: Lisa Mullan	
13 March 2023	Capital Monitor	To provide an update on capital expenditure against the capital budget for the year	D	Treasurer Contact Officer: Lisa Mullan	

Expected Date of Report	Report Name	Purpose of Piece of Work	Information /Decision	Lead Director/ Contact Officer	Progress
13 March 2023	Health Check of Priority Actions and Q3 progress against the Statutory PI's	To scrutinise progress of the Service's Priority Actions and statutory PI's as at the end of Q3	I	T/ACO CS & ACFO SD Contact Officer: Sarah Watkins	
13 March 2023	Internal Audit Annual Report	To provide an opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes based on the internal audit work undertaken during the financial year. This will support the statement of internal control.	I	T/ACO CS Contact Officer: Lisa Mullan	
13 March 2023	Corporate Departmental Risk Register	To seek Members' views upon the Corporate Departmental Risk Register	I	T/ACO CS Contact Officer: Wayne Thomas	
13 March 2023	Register of Gifts and Hospitality	To advise Members of gifts and hospitality accepted and declined by Members and Officers during the year	I	T/ACO CS Contact Officer: Sarah Watkins	

AGENDA ITEM NO 12

**To consider any items of business that the Chairperson deems urgent
(Part 1 or 2)**

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1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
	Members of the Fire & Rescue Authority are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare both orally and in writing any personal and/or prejudicial interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, the Fire & Rescue Authority's Standing Orders and the Members Code of Conduct.	
3.	Chairperson's Announcements	
4.	To receive the minutes of;	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAPM Committee held on 25 July 2022 	5
	REPORTS FOR DECISION	
5.	Medium Term Financial Strategy, Reserve Strategy and Revenue Budget Update Report	11
6.	Revenue Monitoring Report 2022/23	39
7.	Capital Monitoring Report 2022/23	57
8.	2021/22 Annual Treasury Management Review	69
	REPORTS FOR INFORMATION	
9.	Health Check of Priority Actions and Q1 progress against the Statutory PI's	81
10.	Audit Wales Final Audit Letter	123
11.	Forward Work Programme for Finance, Audit & Performance Management Committee 2022/2023	125
12.	To consider any items of business that the Chairperson deems urgent (Part 1 or 2)	131