

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

### **MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY GROUP MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 17 APRIL 2023 AT 1000 HRS IN MEETING ROOM 8 OR REMOTELY VIA TEAMS**

#### **37. PRESENT:**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Left</b>	<b>Authority</b>
M Hughes (Chair)		Bridgend
K Carr		Cardiff
A Hussey		Caerphilly
D Naughton		Cardiff
T Watkins		Newport

#### **APOLOGIES:**

A Best		Torfaen
C Elsbury		Caerphilly
H Jakeway		Chief Fire Officer

**OFFICERS PRESENT:-** ACO G Thomas – Monitoring Officer & Director of Corporate Services, Mrs S Watkins – Deputy Monitoring Officer & Head of Corporate Support, ACO A Reed – Director of People Services, ACFO D Rose – Director of Service Delivery, Temp ACFO G Davies – Director of Technical Services, AM D Loader – Head of Operations, Temp AM C Hadfield – Head of Risk Reduction, Mr C Barton – Treasurer, Ms Lisa Mullan - Temp Head of Finance, Mr W Thomas – Head of Service Performance & Communications, Dr Mark Kerbey – Member of Standards Committee (Observer)

The Chair extended a special warm welcome to Dr M Kerbey, Member of the Standards Committee, who was in attendance as an observer.

#### **38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

## **39. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Chair's announcements to record.

## **40. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the Scrutiny Group meeting held on 6 March. 2023, were received and accepted as a true record of proceedings.

## **41. REPORTS FOR DECISION**

### **41.1. ANNUAL REPORT OF DIRECTORS**

The Monitoring Officer informed Members that the presented inaugural report provided an overview from each Director on specific outcomes, issues, and areas of focus from their respective Directorate.

### **RESOLVED THAT**

- 41.1.1 Following a lengthy question and answer session, Members agreed to note the contents of the Annual Directors Reports and the key areas summarised by the individual Directors.
- 41.1.2 Following a request by Members, Officers agreed to consider facilitating a visit to the Occupational Health Unit and JPSC.
- 41.1.3 Following discussion on the style and layout of the individual reports, following a request by Members, Officers agreed to shorten the reports to 2 to 3 pages long and to consider including pen pictures, etc.

Each Director also took the opportunity to record their thanks to all their individual team members for their help and support throughout the last year.

Members thanked Officers for their comprehensive reports.

## **41.2. ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORK OF MEMBER CHAMPIONS**

The Monitoring Officer informed Members that the presented inaugural annual report provided an overview of the activity and involvement of appointed Member Champions, as elected at the Annual General Meeting in June 2022.

### **RESOLVED THAT**

- 41.2.1 Members agreed to note the contents of the Members Champion reports presented by individual Officers, which included updates on departmental priorities and workstreams.
- 41.2.2 Following a request by Members, Officers agreed to invite each of the Member Champions to personally present their reports to the Scrutiny Group at the end of each Municipal Year.

Officers took the opportunity to thank the individual Member Champions for their valuable help and support throughout the year.

The ACFO Service Delivery withdrew from the meeting at 11:25 hrs.

## **41.3 INITIAL DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022/23**

The Head of Corporate Support presented a report which brought Members attention to the initial draft of the Annual Governance Statement to be included with the 2022/23 Statement of Accounts.

### **RESOLVED THAT**

Following consideration of the draft Annual Governance Statement, Members confirmed that they did not wish to make any amendments and agreed its content.

## **41.4 DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT ON DISCHARGE OF TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SCRUTINY GROUP**

The Deputy Monitoring Officer informed Members that the presented paper was the draft annual report on the work of the Scrutiny Group for the Municipal Year 2022/2023.

### **RESOLVED THAT**

- 41.4.1 Following consideration of the report, Members approved its content as a summary of the workload carried out by the Scrutiny Group, prior to presenting to the Fire & Rescue Authority.
- 41.4.2 Following an update from Officers, Members agreed to note that the Scrutiny Group would be formalised into a more robust structure from a Working Group into a Scrutiny Committee in the new Municipal Year.

## **42. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

### **42.1 FUTURE TRENDS**

The Head of Service Performance & Communications presented a report which provided Members with an assessment of the future of Wales, specifically the administrative area of South Wales Fire & Rescue Service where possible, as a means to identify some of the challenges and opportunities the Service was likely to face.

### **RESOLVED THAT**

- 42.1.1 Following lengthy discussion on the Wellbeing Future Generation (Wales) Act and the 5 Ways of Working, as well as drawing on expertise from other areas and challenges, Members agreed to note the Future Trends information which would assist in future planning and resource decision making.
- 42.1.2 Members agreed to note that reporting on Future Trends would continue to be monitored and regularly updated.

The ACO People Services withdrew from the meeting at 12:00 hrs.

## **42.2 FLOOD WATER STRATEGY**

The Head of Risk Reduction provided Members with an electronic presentation and verbal report on the Service's Flood Water Strategy 2021-2026.

### **RESOLVED THAT**

Members thanked Officers for the informative presentation and agreed to note the verbal update.

## **42.3. CONSULTATION RESPONSES**

The Head of Corporate Support provided Members with a brief overview of the Service's current process for responding to Consultations to Welsh Government and other organisations.

### **RESOLVED THAT**

Following discussion, Members agreed to note that in future they would view the Consultation responses on a regular basis throughout the year and provide feedback before submission.

## **43. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2022/2023**

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

### **RESOLVED THAT**

Members agreed to note that the Forward Work Programme for 2022/2023 was now complete.

The Monitoring Officer took the opportunity to thank Members for their continued support throughout the year.

## **44. TO CONSIDER ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT (PART 1 OR 2)**

There were no items of business that the Chair deemed urgent.

The Chair closed the meeting by thanking Members and Officers for their informative reports and invaluable contribution.