

SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE, AUDIT & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT MEETING

**HELD ON MONDAY 13 MARCH 2023 AT
IN MEETING ROOM 8 OR REMOTELY VIA STARLEAF**

26. PRESENT:

Councillor

Left

S Evans (Chair)

J Morgan (Deputy Chair)

I Buckley

M Hughes

D Isaac

M Al Nuaimi

D Parkin

C Wright

Torfaen

Blaenau Gwent

Vale of Glamorgan

Bridgend

Merthyr Tydfil

Newport

Rhondda Cynon Taff

Caerphilly

APOLOGIES:

M Powell

B Proctor

Mrs L Mullan

Monmouthshire

Cardiff

T/Head of Finance

ABSENT:

OFFICERS PRESENT:- ACO G Thomas – Monitoring Officer & Director of Corporate Services, Mrs S Watkins – Deputy Monitoring Officer & Head of Corporate Support, , Mr C Barton – Treasurer, Ms J Sambell – Temp Senior Accountant, Mr C Williams – Head of ICT, Mr S Gourlay – TIAA Internal Auditor, AM C Hadfield – Temp Head of Risk Reduction, Mr C Rigby – Audit Wales Officer, Mr N Selwyn – Audit Wales Officer, Mr T Gilberts – ICT Manager, Mr R Alexander – Chair of Standards Committee (Observer), Ms L Townsend – Accountancy Technician (Observer), GM J Treherne – Group Manager, Operations Management Team (One item only)

The Chair extended a warm welcome to Ms Louise Townsend and Mr R Alexander, Chair of the Standards Committee, who were attending the meeting as observers.

27. 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 any item which related to New Inn Fire Station.

The Chair and Deputy Chair both declared a personal interest as Members of the Gwent Public Service Board.

Councillor Isaac declared a personal interest as a Member of the Cwm Taf Public Service Board.

28. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair had no announcements to make.

29. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous Finance, Audit & Performance Management meeting held on 5 December 2022, were received and accepted as a true record of proceedings.

30. REPORTS FOR DECISION

30.1 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2023/2024

The Treasurer presented a report to recommend that Members approve the Authority's Annual Treasury Management Strategy.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to note the following and recommended that the Fire Authority formally approve the itemised recommendations:-

- Regulatory changes and reporting impacts
- The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS)

- Capital Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy
- Borrowing Policy and Treasury Indicators/limits
- Annual Investment Strategy (AIS)
- The Treasurer to update strategies/policies as necessary.

30.2 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRAMME

The TIAA Internal Auditor presented a report which detailed the proposed Internal Audit Annual Plan 2023/2024 for Members approval.

RESOLVED THAT

Following discussion about the ability to amend the plan during the year, Members agreed to approve the Internal Audit Annual Plan for 2023/2024.

30.3 INTERNAL AUDITORS ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2023

The TIAA Internal Auditor presented a report which summarised the Internal Audit work that has been undertaken this year.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to note the work and overall opinion of the Internal Auditors for the financial year 2022/2023.

30.4 REVENUE MONITORING REPORT 2022/23

The Temp Senior Accountant informed Members that the Revenue Monitoring Report provided details of the annual revenue budget and associated information for the year ending 31 March, 2023.

RESOLVED THAT

Following several questions relating to pay awards and income received, Members agreed to note the report and approved the content.

30.5 CAPITAL MONITROING REPORT 2022/23

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

RESOLVED THAT

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

30.5.2 Following a lengthy question and answer session, Officers agreed to provide Members with further background information on the cost of 'RTC Cutting/Rescue Tender Equipment', and to confirm how many Fire Stations required refurbishing due to the Equality Assessment that had been undertaken across all stations.

30.6 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WORK OF THE FINANCE, AUDIT & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented Members with the draft annual report on the work of the Finance, Audit & Performance Management Committee for the Municipal Year 2022/2023.

RESOLVED THAT

Following consideration, Members agreed the content of the report prior to reporting to the Fire & Rescue Authority the summary of the workload carried out by the Finance, Audit & Performance Management Committee during the Municipal Year 2022/2023.

31. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

GM Treherne joined the meeting at 10:50 hrs to address any questions relating to the next item on the agenda.

31.1 HEALTH CHECK OF PRIORITY ACTIONS AND QUARTER 3 PROGRESS AGAINST THE STATUTORY PI'S

The ACO Corporate Services provided Members with a brief overview of the Priority Actions and Quarter 3 progress against the statutory PIs.

RESOLVED THAT

Following a question and answer session on concerns relating to the increase in false fire alarm calls, and crews attending Special Service Calls during periods of Industrial Action to assist other Emergency Services, Members agreed to note the presented report and its content.

GM Treherne withdrew from the meeting at 11:00 hrs.

31.2 PREPARATION, CERTIFICATION AND PUBLICATION OF THE ANNUAL STATUTORY STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2022/23

The Treasurer and Audit Wales Officers informed Members that the presented report outlined changes to the 2022/23 Annual Statutory Statement of Account (the accounts) certification timelines and process, as advised by Audit Wales.

RESOLVED THAT

- 31.2.1 Following a question and answer session, Members agreed to note the delay of the certification and publication process of the 2022/23 Accounts.
- 31.2.2 Members agreed to note the statutory duty arising as a result of non-compliance.
- 31.2.3 Members agreed to note the changed Audit Wales approach to the 2022/23 audit due to International Auditing Standards..
- 31.2.4 Members agreed to note the increased cost of external audit service.

31.2.5 Members noted that a one-off meeting may be called to formally sign off and approve the Audited Accounts.

31.3 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

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

31.4 DEPARTMENTAL RISK REGISTER REPORT

The Head of Corporate Support presented Members with an update report on the Departmental Risk Register.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to note the update report on the Departmental Risk Register.

31.5 REGISTER OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY 2022

The Head of Corporate Support presented a report which provided Members with an overview of the gifts and hospitality recorded on the Register of Gifts and Hospitality for 2022.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed to note the contents of the Register of Gifts and Hospitality in line with Internal Audit recommendations.

32. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Monitoring Officer reported that the Forward Work Programme for 2022/2023 was now complete, and he wished to thank Members and Officers for their contribution throughout the 2022/2023 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED THAT

Members agreed the content of the Forward Work Programme for 2022/2023 which was now complete.

The Chair also took the opportunity to thank Members and Officers for all their hard work and commitment throughout the 2022/2023 Municipal Year.

33. 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.

34. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC BY VIRTUE OF PARAGRAPHS 12 & 13 OF PART 4 OF SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED)

A resolution to exclude the press and public by virtue of Paragraphs 12 and 13 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) was passed.

34.1 ICT CYBER SECURITY RESPONSE

The Head of ICT and ICT Manager delivered an electronic presentation to Members on 'ICT Cyber Security Response'.

RESOLVED THAT

Members thanked Officers for the informative overview and agreed to note the electronic presentation on 'ICT Cyber Security Response'.