

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

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

**HELD ON MONDAY 24 JULY 2023 AT  
IN MEETING ROOM 8 OR REMOTELY VIA TEAMS**

#### **1. PRESENT:**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Left</b>
S Evans (Chair)	Torfaen
I Buckley	Vale of Glamorgan
D Isaac	Merthyr Tydfil
C Wright	Caerphilly
M Powell	Monmouthshire
P Ford	Bridgend

#### **APOLOGIES:**

J Morgan	Blaenau Gwent
G Williams	Rhondda Cynon Taff

#### **ABSENT:**

M Al Nuaimi	Newport
B Proctor	Cardiff

**OFFICERS PRESENT:-** ACO G Thomas – Monitoring Officer & Director of Corporate Services, Mr C Barton – Treasurer, AM Dean Loader – Head of Service Delivery, Mrs L Mullan – Temp Head of Finance, Procurement & Property, Mr S Gourlay – TIAA Internal Auditor, Mr N Selwyn – Audit Wales Officer, Ms G Gillett – Audit Wales Officer, Mr C Rigby – Audit Wales Officer, Mr C Rees – Audit Wales Officer

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chair declared a personal interest in items which related to planning applications for New Inn Fire Station.

#### **3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

##### **3.1 Audit Wales**

The Chairman welcomed Ms Gillian Gillet, Mr Nick Selwyn, Mr Charles Rigby and Mr Carwyn Rees from Audit Wales who will be presenting their reports on the agenda. It is Mr Selwyn's last meeting as he is due to retire

at the end of the month, thanks were recorded to Mr Selwyn for the work he has done with the Service and Members wished him all the very best for a happy retirement.

### **3.2 New Inn Station**

The Chairman along with Councillors Best, Councillor Holmes and Councillor Isaac visited New Inn station with Officers on Monday the 26<sup>th</sup> June. It was an informative visit where they toured the existing station and witnessed the pressing need for investment. New Inn Fire Station was officially opened in June 1954 and has had various property work undertaken since, although it is at the end of its useful life and a new fire station is required. Despite best efforts, the Service have been unable to find a suitable new site and have instead approved capital budget to demolish and construct on the existing site. They received an excellent presentation on the proposed design for the new net zero station which will be constructed in the next two years. They also had the opportunity to visit the temporary site where the station and personnel will be relocated to whilst construction takes place. Members look forward to seeing the progress of this site and we will receive regular updates at this committee through the capital monitoring reports. A link to the redevelopment plans website will be shared with Members shortly after this meeting.

## **4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous Finance, Audit & Performance Management meeting held on Monday 13 March 2023, were received and accepted as a true record of proceedings.

## **5. REPORTS FOR DECISION**

### **5.1 REVENUE OUTTURN REPORT 2022/2023**

The T/Head of Finance, Procurement & Property informed Members that subject to the external audit process the report outlined the revenue outturn position for the financial year end 2022/2023 and the resultant impact on reserves.

### **RESOLVED THAT**

Following a question and answer session on issues relating to a vacant post, Members agreed the outturn position and consequent transfer to usable reserves of the revenue surplus.

## **5.2 CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT 2022/2023**

The T/Head of Finance, Procurement and Property informed Members that the presented report provided the capital outturn position for the year ended 31 March 2023, the financing arrangements and the budget slippage required to complete capital schemes in 2023/2024.

### **RESOLVED THAT**

The Service has spent £12,000 on concept of designs for Monmouth station, as this will be a co-location site once the final account is drawn up the other two partners Agencies will be charged appropriately. Structural engineers have looked at the viability for solar panels on the roofs at Barry and Headquarters. HQ may require a new roof within the next two years so this has been paused for now to look at costings. Members agreed to note the report and approved the budget slippage as detailed in Appendix 1 attached to the report.

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

### **6.2 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT**

The T/Head of Finance, Procurement and Property presented the report providing an update on the Authority's Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators for the quarter ending June 2023.

### **RESOLVED THAT**

Members noted the content of the report.

### **6.3 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT – 1 APRIL 2022 – 31 MARCH 2023**

The Head of Service Delivery presented a report informing Members of the Business Plan Actions report, Health Check 2021/2022, for Quarter 4 which was also presented at last weeks Fire Authority meeting.

#### **RESOLVED THAT**

It was asked whether there was a link between the vacancy of the Anti-Social Behaviour post and the rise in false alarms, it was advised the higher numbers were due to deliberate grass fires and that Operational Crews continue to deliver education on this and there was no link. Members agreed to note the Business Plan Actions Report, Health Check 2021/2022, for Quarter 4.

### **6.4 AUDIT WALES AUDIT PLAN 2023**

The Audit Wales Officer provided an update and overview to Members on the Audit plan for 2023.

#### **RESOLVED THAT**

Members noted the update.

### **6.5 DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2022/2023**

The Temporary Head of Finance, Procurement and Property gave an update to the group on the Draft Statement of Accounts for 2022/23 which had been circulated to Members.

#### **RESOLVED THAT**

Members noted the Draft Statement of Accounts for 2022/2023 and requested that their thanks be passed onto the team for all their work.

### **6.6 AUDIT WALES – FIRE FALSE ALARM REDUCTION**

Mr Nick Selwyn and Mr Charles Rigby presented the Audit Wales Report on Fire False Alarm Reduction that had been undertaken across all 3 FRS's in Wales for a consistent approach.

#### **RESOLVED THAT**

This report was presented at Fire Authority last week and Members accepted all the recommendations and responses made. A further

update will be provided by the Unwanted Fire Signal Working Group in 6 months to the Scrutiny Committee.

## **7. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Monitoring Officer provided Members with the Forward Work Programme for 2023/2024.

### **RESOLVED THAT**

Members agreed the content of the Forward Work Programme for 2023/2024.

## **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.