

SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE, AUDIT & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2020 VIA STARLEAF

24. PRESENT

Councillor	Arrived	
S Evans (Chair)		Torfaen
S Bradwick		Rhondda Cynon Taf
M Colbran		Merthyr Tydfil
DT Davies	1105	Caerphilly
P Drake		Vale of Glamorgan
J Harries (audio only – did not vote)		Rhondda Cynon Taf
S Ebrahim		Cardiff
A Hussey		Caerphilly
V Smith		Monmouthshire
M Spencer		Newport

APOLOGIES

W Hodgins	Blaenau Gwent
-----------	---------------

ABSENT

D White	Bridgend
---------	----------

OFFICERS PRESENT: DCO S Chapman – Monitoring Officer; Mr C Barton – Treasurer; Mr G Thomas – Head of Finance & Procurement; Mr S Gourlay – TIAA.

It was noted that Cllr Harries had advised prior to the meeting that he only had an audio connection and would therefore be listening to the meeting but unable to take part in any discussion or voting.

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

38. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair announced the intention of Councillor P Drake to stand-down from her position as Vice Chair of the Finance, Audit & Performance Management

Committee. Cllr Drake advised that she will remain as a member of the Committee.

Cllr Hussey, seconded by the Chair, nominated Cllr David White to the role of Vice Chair, and a vote unanimously supported this nomination.

The Deputy Chief Officer confirmed that the Vice Chair post-holder does not automatically take up position on the Local Pension Board since it is a political appointment and subject to nominations by the Labour Group to ensure political balance.

39. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

- Finance, Audit & Performance Management Committee meeting held on 21 September 2020.
- Finance, Asset & Performance Management Scrutiny Group meeting held on 13 January 2020.

40. REVENUE MONITORING REPORT 2020/21

The Head of Finance & Procurement presented Members with the revenue monitoring report for 2020/21 and provided details of the annual revenue budget and associated information for the year ending 31 March 2021.

In response to Members' queries regarding the additional expenditure incurred on ICT equipment as a result of COVID-19, the Head of Finance & Procurement confirmed that discussions are ongoing with Welsh Government's Fire Branch with a view to reviewing their stance on the provision of financial support.

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted and agreed the report content.

41. CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT 2020/21

The Head of Finance & Procurement provided Members with a detailed update on the capital monitoring report, including detail of the capital budget, transactions to date and the forecasted year end position.

The Head of Finance & Procurement provided clarification on various aspects of the report, and following discussions regarding the government's

announcement to bring forward the phasing out of the sale of new petrol and diesel light vehicles to 2030, he confirmed that this will be taken into account within the vehicle replacement programme.

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted the budget and the progress of the capital schemes, and approved the alterations identified in Appendix 1 and the associated funding streams.

42. REVENUE BUDGET 2021/2022

The Treasurer provided Members with an update on the draft revenue budget for 2021/22. With reference to England's recent announcement of a public sector pay freeze, the Treasurer advised that that provision for pay awards will be retained within the budget for next year as the risk to remove it is too high.

The Treasurer reported that there has been no forecast projection for the 2021/22 financial settlement and without the indicative Local Government Settlement being confirmed by Welsh Government until late this year, the budget consultation decision is likely to have to be taken without this information. He undertook to update Members when the settlement is confirmed by Welsh Government.

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted and agreed the report content as a recommendation to the Fire & Rescue Authority to form the basis of the budget consultation exercise.

43. TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-TERM REVIEW REPORT 2020/21

The Treasurer presented Members with the Treasury Management Mid-term Review report and provided an update on the Authority's treasury activities for the period 1 April-30 September 2020.

In response to Members' queries about the protocols for borrowing, the Treasurer confirmed that the most effective and appropriate sources to secure the best package is sought.

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted the report and treasury activities for the period 1 April-30 September 2020.

44. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The TIAA Officer updated Members on the progress being made against the Internal Audit Plan for 2020/21.

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted the internal audit recommendations and the work completed to date on the Internal Audit Plan.

45. AUDIT ACTIONS REPORT HEALTH CHECK 2020/21 – QUARTER 2

The Deputy Chief Officer presented the Quarter 2 Audit Actions Report Health Check for 2021/21, which provided details of the progress made on audit actions arising from internal audits, corporate schemes and government circulars, operational assurance peer reviews and Audit Wales thematic reviews. The majority of actions are progressing in line with predicted timelines. However, as a consequence of COVID-19 and the diverting of resources at the time, there has been some slippage of timelines.

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted the content of the report.

46. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2021/21

The Deputy Chief Officer presented the Forward Work Programme.

RESOLVED THAT

Members noted the Forward Work Programme for 2020/21.

47. TO CONSIDER ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DEEMS URGENT (PART 1 OR 2)

There were no items of business that the Chairman deemed urgent (Part 1 or 2)