

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Minutes of the meeting of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority held on Monday 20 June 2022 virtually via Zoom. Meeting commenced at 10.10am.

Councillor

Jeff Evans
Dylan Rees
Ken Taylor
Carol Beard
Neil Coverley
Chris Hughes
Austin Roberts
Nigel Smith
Alan Hughes
Mark Young
Marion Bateman
Paul Cunningham
Adele Davies-Cooke
Dale Selvester
Gwynfor Owen
Arwyn Herald Roberts
Gareth A Roberts
Rob Triggs
Bryan Apsley
Beverley Parry-Jones
Rondo Roberts

Representing

Anglesey County Council
Anglesey County Council
Anglesey County Council
Conwy County Borough Council
Conwy County Borough Council
Conwy County Borough Council
Conwy County Borough Council
Conwy County Borough Council
Denbighshire County Council
Denbighshire County Council
Flintshire County Council
Flintshire County Council
Flintshire County Council
Flintshire County Council
Gwynedd Council
Gwynedd Council
Gwynedd Council
Gwynedd Council
Wrexham County Borough Council
Wrexham County Borough Council
Wrexham County Borough Council

Also present:

D Docx (Chief Fire Officer); G Owens (Clerk and Monitoring Officer); D Edwards (Treasurer); S Forshaw (Deputy Chief Fire Officer); R Fairhead, H MacArthur and S Millington (Assistant Chief Fire Officers); S Morris (Assistant Chief Officer); G Williams (Conwy County Borough Council); M Georgiou (Deputy Clerk and Monitoring Officer); T Williams (Corporate Communications Manager); A Davies (Member Liaison Officer).

1 APOLOGIES

Councillor

Tina Claydon
Chrissy Gee
John Brynmor Hughes
Marc Jones
Paul Rogers

Representing

Flintshire County Council
Flintshire County Council
Gwynedd Council
Wrexham County Borough Council
Wrexham County Borough Council

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3 NOTICE OF URGENT MATTERS

3.1 There was no notice of urgent matters.

4 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 MARCH 2022

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2022 were submitted for approval.

4.2 **RESOLVED to approve the minutes as a true and correct record of the meetings held.**

5 MATTERS ARISING

5.1 There were no matters arising.

6 WILD FIRES

6.1 ACFO Millington delivered a presentation on wild fires and the resources required to deal with such incidents.

6.2 Members had the opportunity of asking questions following the presentation and it was noted that a review was currently being undertaken into the resources and the options available around personal protective equipment.

6.3 **RESOLVED to note the information presented.**

7 FINANCIAL YEAR-END 2021/22

7.1 The Treasurer introduced himself to Members and explained that this was his first meeting and that he was looking forward to working with the Authority. He thanked ACFO MacArthur and the finance team and commended them for having been able to prepare the statement of accounts by the end of May.

7.2 ACFO MacArthur presented the report detailing the draft year-end financial position and performance for 2021/22. The report also incorporated the draft 2021/22 Statement of Accounts presented for audit, confirmation of the proposed reserves as at 31 March 2022 and a summary of the bad debts written off during 2021/22.

7.3 Members were also requested to delegate approval of the final audited version to the Executive Panel at its meeting on 19 September 2022; it was noted that minor typographical amendments would be made to the accounts prior to the final audit.

7.4 **RESOLVED to**

- (i) note the draft revenue and capital outturn positions as detailed within the 2021/22 Statement of Accounts;**
- (ii) delegate approval of the final audited 2021/22 Statement of Accounts to the Executive Panel, at its meeting on 19 September 2022;**
- (iii) approve the earmarked reserves;**
- (iv) note the bad debts written off in 2021/22.**

8 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2021/22

8.1 ACO Morris presented the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22.

8.2 It was noted that the CIPFA/Solace Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework (2016) requires the the Authority to publish an Annual Governance Statement. The Annual Governance Statement will be published as part of the production of the statutory financial statements for 2021/22. An assessment will be made by the external auditor to confirm whether it is consistent with the financial statements and has been produced in line with the Framework.

8.3 **RESOLVED to**

- (i) note the governance arrangements outlined within the draft 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement;**
- (ii) note the forward work plan for 2022/23; and**
- (iii) approve the draft 2021/22 Annual Government Statement.**

9 FIREFIGHTERS PENSION SCHEMES LOCAL PENSION BOARD – ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

9.1 ACFO MacArthur presented the annual report of the Local Pension Board which details the work of the board during the 2021/22 financial year.

9.2 **RESOLVED to approve the Local Pension Board annual report 2021/22 for publication on the Authority's website.**

10 INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

10.1 Keith Williams presented the internal audit annual report 2021/22; it analysed the work of the Internal Audit Service for 2021/22 and contained the assurance statement based on the work of Internal Audit during the year ended March 2022.

- 10.2 **RESOLVED to note the content of Head of Audit and Procurement's Annual Report and the overall 'opinion' upon the adequacy and effectiveness of the Authority's framework of governance, risk management and control.**
- 11 AUDIT PLAN 2022
- 11.1 Mike Whiteley from Audit Wales presented the external audit plan 2022 for North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority. The audit plan sets out the proposed work of Audit Wales for the coming year as well as confirming the fee amount of £63,721.
- 11.2 Mr Whiteley informed Members that since the report had been written, the topic for the value for money/thematic review had been confirmed as reducing/preventing false alarms.
- 11.3 **RESOLVED to note the information provided.**