

## **NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority held on Monday 16 September 2019 at Conwy County Borough Council. Meeting commenced at 9.45am due to a number of Members being delayed by roadworks on the A55.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

B Apsley (Chair)	Wrexham County Borough Council
G A Roberts	Gwynedd Council
G Lowe	Wrexham County Borough Council
S Lloyd-Williams	Conwy County Borough Council
E W Jones	Anglesey Council
Clr O Thomas	Flintshire County Council

ALSO PRESENT:

K Finch (Treasurer); C P Everett (Clerk); S Morris and H MacArthur (Assistant Chief Officers); S Forrest and G Williams (Accountancy and Exchequer Services, Conwy County); K V Williams (Audit Department, Conwy County Borough Council); H Howard (Head of Finance); C A P Thomas and P Bass (Secretariat).

### 1. APOLOGIES

Clr I Dunbar	Flintshire County Council
Clr P Shotton	Flintshire County Council
Clr D Wisinger	Flintshire County Council

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

2.1 None

### 3. NOTICE OF URGENT MATTERS

3.1 There were no urgent matters.

### 4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 JULY 2019

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2019 were submitted for approval.

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

## 5. MATTERS ARISING

5.1 ACO MacArthur confirmed that the audited Statement of Accounts was approved by the Executive Panel on 29 July 2019 and will be confirmed to the Full Authority meeting on 16 September 2019.

## 6. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY AND ACTUAL PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2019/20

6.1 Sandra Forrest provided Members with a presentation on the interim report summarising the Authority's Treasury Management Activity and detailing the Actual Prudential Indicators 2019/20. A further report will be issued in January 2020.

6.2 Capital expenditure plans (Indicator 1) have been revised to £2.05m, and the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) has also decreased to £33.2m. The new ratio indicator is 7.83% (from 8.97%).

6.3 Current PWLB debt is £16.72m and market loan is £17m, totalling £33.72m. The approved limit for short term borrowing is 55%, with which the Treasury advisors (Arlingclose) are content.

6.4 Arlingclose have advised that the use of short term borrowing is cost effective for the Authority. Brexit is an unknown, however, a decrease in interest rates is predicted. The PWLB rate is 1.61%.

6.5 Investments now total £3.88m due to the top up grant for the pension fund. This is split between two core accounts, with Call Account rates of 0.65% and 0.5%, respectively.

6.6 Councillor Lloyd-Williams commended Sandra Forrest for providing a clear and concise report.

**6.7 RESOLVED to recommend to the Fire and Rescue Authority that the actual 2019/20 Prudential Indicators are approved.**

## 7. WALES AUDIT OFFICE ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2018/19

7.1 ACO Morris presented the Wales Audit Office (WAO) Annual Improvement Report (AIR) which summarises that based on the work of WAO the Authority is likely to comply with the requirements of the Local Government Measure (2009) during this year.

7.2 Six proposals were made around complying with the sustainable development principle under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, but no formal recommendations were made.

7.3 Recommendations made in a national report on Local Government Services to Rural Communities included one aimed at PSB partners, which Members were asked to note.

**7.4 RESOLVED to note the AIR and its recommendations.**

8. URGENT MATTERS

8.1 There were no urgent matters.