



## Record of decisions taken by the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority on Monday 16 October 2023

Agenda Item No	Topic	Resolution
1	Attendance and Apologies	<p>Councillors in attendance: Dylan Rees (Chair); Paul Cunningham (Deputy Chair); Bryan Apsley; Marion Bateman; Carol Beard; Adele Davies-Cooke; Jeff Evans; Alan Hughes (left 11:29); Chris Hughes; John Brynmor Hughes; Gareth R Jones; John Ifan Jones (left 12:05); Marc Jones (left 11:46); Gwynfor Owen; Arwyn Herald Roberts; Austin Roberts; Gareth A Roberts; Rondo Roberts (left at 10:50); Paul Rogers; Gareth Sandilands; Dale Selvester; Rob Triggs; Mark Young.</p> <p>Apologies: Councillors: Tina Claydon; Sharon Doleman; Chrissy Gee; Beverley Parry-Jones; Michelle Walker.</p> <p>Contributors: CFO Dawn Docx; DCFO Stewart Forshaw; ACFO Helen MacArthur; ACFO Stuart Millington; Dafydd Edwards, Treasurer; Gareth Owens, Monitoring Officer; Lisa Allington, Executive Assistant; Helen Howard, Head of Finance; Tracey Williams, Head of Corporate Communications; David Tomalin, Audit Wales; Mike Whiteley, Audit Wales; Euros Lake, Audit Wales; Carwyn Rees, Audit Wales.</p>
2	Declarations of Interest	Cllr Mark Young declared a personal interest in Item 15 – New Training Centre due to his membership on the Denbighshire Planning Committee.
3	Notice of Urgent Matters	None
4	Minutes of FRA and AGM Meetings held on 17 July 2023	i) To approve the FRA and AGM minutes as a true and correct record of the meetings held.
6	Emergency cover review consultation outcomes	<p>i) note the comprehensive range of community and stakeholder engagement activities delivered as part of the public consultation;</p> <p>ii) note, the analysis of the consultation feedback in the report from independent consultant Sarah Barnett Research (Appendix 1;</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iii) note additional comments and suggestions received for making improvements to the provision of fair and equitable emergency cover across North Wales;</li> <li>iv) note the Member led Emergency Cover Review Working Group recommend that officers continue to work on variations of option 1 plus the points raised in the responses to the consultation; and</li> <li>v) agree, the recommendation from the Member ECR working group that the Authority cease working on options 2 and 3 from the ECR based on clear rejection from the public from within the consultation report.</li> </ul>
7	Chair's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) note the information provided.</li> </ul>
8	Annual Governance Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) note the governance arrangements outlined within the 2022/23 Annual Governance Statement;</li> <li>ii) note the forward work plan for 2023/24; and</li> <li>iii) approve the 2022/23 Annual Government Statement for publishing on the Authority's website by 31 October 2023.</li> </ul>
9	Audited Statement of Accounts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) note the audited outturn position and performance as detailed within the 2022/23 Statement of Accounts (Appendix 1);</li> <li>ii) note the report of the Auditor General for Wales which confirms an unqualified audit opinion (Appendix 2);</li> <li>iii) note the proposed letter of representation; and</li> <li>iv) approve of the final audited 2022/23 Statement of Accounts.</li> </ul>
10	Annual Performance Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) approve the annual assessment of the Authority's performance in 2022/23 for publication on the Authority's website; and</li> <li>ii) note the Service's intention to publish a simple summary version of the key elements of the assessment report.</li> </ul>
11	Financial Update 2023-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) note the draft revenue and capital outturn projections for the 2023/24 financial year as detailed within the report;</li> <li>ii) note the risks associated with inflation and supply chain issues;</li> <li>iii) note the risks associated with the ongoing pay negotiations; and</li> <li>iv) approve the use of earmarked and general fund reserves.</li> </ul>

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12	Budget Setting 2024/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) note the planning assumptions being used to develop the revenue budget for 2024/25;</li> <li>ii) note the remit of the budget scrutiny working group established by the Audit Committee and the proposed reporting timetable;</li> <li>iii) note the proposal to provide initial budget estimates to the Executive Panel at its meeting of 18 December 2022; and</li> <li>iv) note the proposal to seek approval for the 2024/25 revenue budget by the Authority at its meeting of 22 January 2024.</li> </ul>
13	Treasury Management Report April-June 2023-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) approve the treasury management activity; and</li> <li>ii) approve the prudential indicators for quarter 1 of 2023/24.</li> </ul>
14a	Firefighters' Pension Scheme Wales – Age Discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) note the legislative requirements and timescales established by the regulations; and</li> <li>ii) note the work undertaken to implement the regulations.</li> </ul>
14b	Firefighters' Pension Scheme Wales – Pension Entitlement for Retained Firefighters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) note the background to the legal matter; and</li> <li>ii) note the proposals set out by the Welsh Government to address the legal issues arising.</li> </ul>
15	New Training Centre Land Purchase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) note the background to review fire and rescue training facilities in North Wales;</li> <li>ii) note that the current training facility provision is reaching its end of life;</li> <li>iii) approve the purchase of land in St Asaph, Denbighshire, that has been assessed as being suitable for the construction of a new training and development centre in North Wales; and</li> <li>iv) approve commencement of newt mitigation work to ensure the site is ready for construction from December 2024. This would be subject to Member's scrutiny and approval;</li> </ul>
16	Review into Automatic Fire Alarms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) note the content of the Audit Wales False Fire Alarms reduction report.</li> </ul>