

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg

AWDURDOD TÂN AC ACHUB GOGLEDD CYMRU



NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

**A meeting of the EXECUTIVE PANEL will be held MONDAY 18 OCTOBER 2021.
The meeting will be held via Zoom commencing at 2.00pm.**

Yours faithfully

Colin Everett
Clerk

AGENDA

1. Apologies

2. Declaration of Interests

3. Notice of Urgent Matters

Notice of items which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2021

5. Matters arising

6. COVID-19 Update (verbal update)

7. Audited Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

8. Performance Monitoring April 2021 – September 2021

9. Budget Setting 2022/2023

10. Review of Improvement and Well-being Objectives in the Authority's Corporate Plan 2021-24

11. Strategic Risk Management

12. Urgent Matters

To consider any items which the Chair has decided are urgent (pursuant to Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972) and of which substance has been declared under item 3 above.

PART II

It is recommended pursuant to Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item(s) of business because it is likely that there would be disclosed to them exempt information as defined in Paragraph(s) 12 to 18 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

13. Principal Management Team Resilience and Pay Review

North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority Executive Panel

Minutes of the Executive Panel meeting of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority held on Monday 26 July 2021 via Zoom. Meeting commenced at 2.00pm.

Present

Councillors:

P Lewis (Chair)	Conwy County Borough Council
D Rees (Deputy Chair)	Anglesey County Council
A Davies	Denbighshire County Council
M Ll Davies	Denbighshire County Council
M Dixon	Wrexham County Borough Council
R Griffiths	Anglesey County Council
J B Hughes	Gwynedd Council

Also Present

D Docx (Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive); K Finch (Treasurer); R Fairhead, H MacArthur and S Millington (Assistant Chief Fire Officers); S Morris (Assistant Chief Officer); T Williams (Corporate Communications Manager); A Davies (Members' Liaison Officer).

1 APOLOGIES

Cllr M Bateman	Flintshire County Council
Cllr R Parry	Conwy County Borough Council
Cllr A Tansley	Conwy County Borough Council
Cllr R Roberts	Wrexham County Borough Council
C Everett	Clerk to the Authority

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3 NOTICE OF URGENT MATTERS

3.1 None.

4 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 MAY 2021

4.1 The minutes of the Executive Panel meeting held on 10 May 2021 were submitted for approval.

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

5 MATTERS ARISING

5.1 ESMCP – at the last meeting, Members had been informed of the delay with the UK-wide project, that the existing contract with Airwave had been extended until 2026 and that it was anticipated that the Welsh Government would continue to fund it until 2026. The Chief Fire Officer informed Members that the issue of funding and the likely increase in cost due to the system becoming out-dated had been raised at the FRA Consultative Forum on 21 July. The Deputy Minister had agreed to give consideration to increasing the grant and her response will be reported to Members at the next meeting.

5.2 **RESOLVED to note the update.**

6 COVID-19 UPDATE

6.1 The Chair asked ACFO Fairhead, prior to the COVID-19 update, to give an overview of incidents activity over the weekend.

6.2 It was noted that all emergency services are seeing an increase in activity due to 'staycations' and the warm weather. Amongst the incidents attended were two accidental dwelling fires involving elderly people who lived alone and were classed as vulnerable adults. There were no serious injuries and the fires were extinguished quickly. However, this again highlights the importance of partnership working and continuing the endeavours to work with agencies who are in contact with vulnerable people on a daily basis to keep people safe in their homes. Safe and well checks will be undertaken with both of these individuals today to provide further interventions and advice in order to prevent a reoccurrence. The ACFO referred to the wholetime and on-call firefighters who have all worked hard in extreme weather and also the professionalism of Control staff who throughout the busy weekend were constantly monitoring the availability of appliances across North Wales and ensuring that there were enough appliances in the right place in order to continue to keep safe the people who live and work in North Wales as well as those visiting the area.

6.3 ACFO Fairhead provided an update on the latest impact of COVID-19 on the Service. Although there had been an increase in cases and that more people were having to self-isolate due to the Test and Trace system, the Service continues with its strategic intent to keep the workforce and the community safe. The Covid safety measures that are currently in place will continue for as long as necessary in order to ensure fire and rescue services can continue to be delivered to the people of North Wales.

6.4 Members expressed their gratitude to all staff and crews who had worked tirelessly over the weekend. In terms of partnership working and identifying vulnerable people in the communities of North Wales, the Chair asked that all Members contact their Cabinet Member for Social Care to cascade the information about safe and well checks to all social care staff in their constituent authorities.

6.5 **RESOLVED to note the update provided.**

7 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020/21

7.1 Matthew Edwards from Audit Wales gave a verbal update about the latest position with approving the statement of accounts for 2020/21. He stated that Audit Wales officers were still in discussion with NWFRS management about a number of issues and therefore were not yet able to provide an audit opinion. It was noted that the Accounts and Audit (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 No. 404 has extended the publication date of the Accounts to 30 November. Mr Edwards confirmed that Audit Wales' proposed opinion will be available for the next Audit Committee and ready for final approval at the next Executive Panel meeting on 18 October.

7.2 **RESOLVED to note the information.**

8 PERFORMANCE MONITORING APRIL 2021 – JUNE 2021

8.1 ACO Morris presented the report which provided information relating to the Service's incident activity during the first quarter of the 2021/22 financial year, performance in relation to improvement and well-being objectives and other notable incident activity.

8.2 The following statistics were highlighted to Members:

- the Service had attended a combined total of 1,320 emergency incidents and false alarms, down 4.2% from 1,378 in the same period last year;
- the number of outdoor fires reduced from 399 to 294 compared with the same period last year;
- false alarms attended reduced by 5.9% from 629 in the first quarter of 2020/21 to 592 in this reporting period;

8.3 It was noted that the number of accidental dwelling fires increased by 9 (8.7%), although this was not a large increase it was nevertheless an increase and the Service will be looking to engage with the public to ensure it does not continue to increase over time.

8.4 In terms of the Service's prevention work, with some lifting of the pandemic restrictions, the Service completed 2,547 safe and well checks (SAWC) during the first quarter; this is fewer than for the same period last year. It was also noted that the number of face-to-face SAWCs undertaken were limited by pandemic restrictions on social contact resulting in the majority of SAWCs being conducted over the telephone.

8.5 In response to a request, ACO Morris agreed to provide further detail at a future meeting as regards the causes of accidental dwelling fires

8.6 **RESOLVED to note the contents of the performance monitoring report.**

9 APPOINTMENT TO POSTS OF MONITORING OFFICER AND TREASURER

9.1 The CFO presented the report which advised Members about the requirements of the statutory posts of Monitoring Officer and Treasurer and to seek approval to enter into a competitive process for the appointment thereof with effect from 1 April 2022.

9.2 The CFO explained that Colin Everett has indicated his intention to resign as the Monitoring Officer of the Authority at the same time as he resigns as Chief Executive of Flintshire County Council. The current contract includes provision for a deputy Monitoring Officer and these services are provided by Gareth Owens, Monitoring Officer of Flintshire County Council. The intention is to request that Gareth Owens continues to undertake the responsibilities of the Monitoring Officer until 1 April 2022.

9.3 Ken Finch, having served as the Treasurer of the Authority since its inception in 1996, has also announced his intention to step down from the role towards the end of this year.

9.4 As both roles, Monitoring Officer and Treasurer, are statutory posts which must be held by named individuals with the relevant knowledge, skills and experience, Members agreed that a competitive appointment process should be undertaken. Under the terms of the Authority's constitution, it was noted that the appointment process should be overseen by a committee established for that purpose. The appointments will be subject to approval by the full Authority following the recommendation of that committee.

9.5 The Chair proposed that the appointments panel comprises:

- Cllr Peter Lewis, Chair of the Authority
- Cllr Dylan Rees, Deputy Chair of the Authority
- Cllr Bryan Apsley, Chair of the Audit Committee
- Cllr Owen Thomas, Deputy Chair of the Audit Committee

and two Members from the constituent authorities not already represented, namely Denbighshire and Gwynedd – names to be confirmed.

9.6 **RESOLVED to**

- (i) note the requirement for the Authority to appoint to the statutory roles of Treasurer and Monitoring Officer and approve the commencement of a competitive process for the appointments thereof with effect from 1 April 2022;**
- (ii) agree the appointments panel as set out above.**

Report to	Executive Panel
Date	18 October 2021
Lead Officer	Ken Finch – Treasurer
Contact Officer	Ken Finch (01745 535286)
Subject	Audited Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement 2020/21



PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 This report is to present to members the audited Statement of Accounts for 2020/21 including the Annual Governance Statement. This report also presents the findings of the Auditor General for Wales which confirms an unqualified audit opinion.
- 2 The Audit Committee has been tasked with ensuring effective scrutiny of finance reports and, based on its findings, make recommendations to the Executive Panel.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 3 The draft accounts were submitted for audit on 28 May 2021. These confirmed net expenditure of £38.55m, with a contribution to the General Fund of £0.063m. The final audited position remains unchanged.
- 4 The Authority's Annual Governance Statement is set out in Appendix 2 and demonstrates compliance with the CIPFA/Solace Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework (2016).
- 5 The report issued by Audit Wales on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales is set out in Appendix 3 and confirms an unqualified audit opinion.
- 6 The Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 require that the audited accounts and annual governance statement are normally approved by Members by 31 July. However, due to the pandemic, these timescales have been extended to 30 November 2021.

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

- 7 Members of the Audit Committee were presented with the audited statement of accounts and governance statement at its meeting of the 18 October 2021. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

- 8 Members are asked to:
- (i) receive the recommendation of the Audit Committee at its meeting of 18 October 2021;
 - (ii) approve the audited outturn position and performance as detailed within the 2020/21 Statement of Accounts (Appendix 1);
 - (iii) approve the governance arrangements and action plan as outlined within the 2020/21 Annual Governance Statement (Appendix 2);
 - (iv) note the report of the Auditor General for Wales which confirms an unqualified audit opinion (Appendix 3); and
 - (v) note the proposed letter of representation.

BACKGROUND

- 9 In compliance with the Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2010, the Authority has produced a statement of accounts and governance statement which were presented to the Authority at its meeting of the 21 June 2021. These have been subject to external audit and the appendices contain the final audited versions.

INFORMATION REVENUE EXPENDITURE

- 10 Members of the Authority were presented with a financial performance report for 2020/21 at the Fire and Rescue Authority meeting on 21 June 2021. This confirmed the draft outturn position of net expenditure of £38.55m, with a contribution to the General Fund of £0.063m. The final audited position remains unchanged.

BALANCE SHEET

- 11 The Balance Sheet provides further information on the Authority's long term financial position and is contained on page 19 of the Accounts (set out in Appendix 1). The following paragraphs provide further information.

Fixed assets and borrowing

- 12 The final audited accounts confirmed that the Authority held assets of £40.01m as at 31 March 2021. A number of audit adjustments were identified in relation to the re-valuation of the Authority's land and buildings by the appointed external valuer. These adjustments have been actioned and work is ongoing to address this matter for future valuations.

- 13 The Authority is permitted to borrow to fund capital assets and as at 31 March 2021 the value of outstanding loans was £26.1m, which is in line with the limits set by the Authority.

Pension Liabilities

- 14 The Authority is required to account for the estimated liabilities relating to its pension schemes. The Authority has two schemes; the Firefighters' Pension Scheme and the Local Government Pension Scheme. The value of future liabilities is calculated by the actuary for each scheme and amounted to £337.32m at the balance sheet date.

Usable reserves

- 15 The Authority's usable reserves as at 31 March 2021 were £4.91m which included £1.45m of general fund reserves and £3.46m of earmarked reserves. The reserves policy was approved by the Authority at its meeting of 21 June 2021.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

- 16 Since 2010/11 all local government bodies have been required to prepare an Annual Governance Statement which is published as part of the Statutory Accounts.
- 17 The Annual Governance Statement has been prepared in accordance with the seven principles set out in the guidance document Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (CIPFA/SOLACE 2016).
- 18 The Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21 is set out in Appendix 2. It provides an overview of the governance arrangements and confirms the work plan for 2021/22.
- 19 The Annual Governance Statement is reviewed by Audit Wales to confirm that it is consistent with its knowledge of the Authority. During the course of the audit, the auditor made a number of suggestions which have been incorporated into the final version. These included expanding the narrative in relation to action taken during the pandemic to ensure continuity of governance arrangements and also to reference the work of Audit Wales in relation to corporate resilience.

AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- 20 The Auditor General for Wales is responsible for providing an opinion on whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial performance and position of the Authority for the year ended 31 March 2021.
- 21 In performing the audit work, Audit Wales does not seek to provide absolute assurance but considers whether there are any material issues which may result in a reader of the accounts being misled. When an error or misstatement is identified Audit Wales will consider whether an amendment is required. Guidance on the approach is set out in Appendix 4.
- 22 The Auditor General for Wales proposes to issue an unqualified audit opinion which means that the accounts present a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the Authority. The report is contained within Appendix 3 and the following is noted:
- The audit report recognised the progress made in previous years to improve the quality of the financial statements and the challenges posed by Covid-19. However, additional work is required to further enhance the quality assurance arrangements to reduce the number of audit adjustments.
 - The audit identified a number of amendments which were agreed with management. The amendments did not impact on the Authority's reported position and included a number of technical adjustments necessary to fully comply with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting.
 - The audit identified two matters which remained uncorrected. The first related to an insurance accrual of £0.06m which will be reversed during 2021/22 and is not considered material. The second item related to a single payment of £ 0.958m to Clwyd Pension Fund to address the deficit for the period 2021/22 through to 2023/24. In making a lump sum payment the Authority took advantage of reduced costs over the three year period and apportioned the payment over the relevant period. However, further work will be undertaken during 2021/22 to agree the technical accounting between the general fund and pension fund.
- 23 The Audit Report also contained the final letter of representation. This letter provides representation from the Chair and Treasurer to acknowledge their responsibilities and to confirm the arrangements for ensuring that the accounts provide a true and fair view.

IMPLICATIONS

Wellbeing Objectives	This report links to NWFRA's long-term well-being objectives. Funding for the Service benefits the communities of North Wales and ensures there is sufficient investment in infrastructure to enable the Service to provide emergency responses and prevention work well in to the future.
Budget	Budget is set annually in accordance with the proposed service delivery which includes emergency response and prevention work.
Legal	It is a legal requirement that the Authority produces the Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement in accordance with the prescribed standards.
Staffing	None
Equalities/Human Rights/Welsh Language	None
Risks	Income and expenditure is closely monitored to ensure that deviations from the approved budget are properly identified and reported to Members.

Report to	North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority	
Date	18 October 2021	
Lead Officer	Shân Morris, Assistant Chief Officer (Corporate Policy and Planning)	
Contact Officer	Pippa Hardwick, Corporate Planning Manager (01745 535286)	
Subject	Performance Monitoring April 2021 – September 2021	

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 To provide information relating to the Service's incident activity during the first six months of the 2021/22 financial year; performance in relation to improvement and well-being objectives and other notable incident activity.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2 The Service attended a combined total of 2,734 emergency incidents and false alarms, up 4.8% from 2,610 in the same period last year. The number of outdoor fires reduced by 9.7% from 601 to 543.
- 3 False Alarms attended increased by 4.1% from 1,246 in the first six months of 2020/21 to 1,297 this year. The increase was in part due to a rise in the number of fire alarms due to apparatus (AFAs) from 613 to 714 (16.5%).
- 4 There were 384 special service incidents compared to 278 last year, an increase of 38.1%. The number of road traffic collisions (RTCs) attended increased by 75.5% from 49 to 86 whilst Other than RTC (excl. projects) incidents increased from 194 to 245 (26.3%).
- 5 The Service attended 208 accidental dwelling fires (ADFs), an 11.2% increase compared to 187 attended last year. At those incidents, 19 people were recorded as having sustained slight injuries and three as having sustained serious injuries. There were 44 people that were given first aid or a precautionary check at the scene and three people lost their lives in ADFs during the reporting period.
- 6 The Service completed 5,885 safe and well checks (SAWCs) during the first six months of 2021/22, 627 fewer than the 6,512 completed last year. The number of face-to-face SAWCs carried out was limited by pandemic restrictions on social contact resulting in the majority being conducted over the telephone.

- 7 There was a slight decrease in the number of ADFs that the Service attended where there was no smoke alarm fitted, falling from 27 in 2020/21 to 26 in 2021/22. The number of attendances at ADFs with no smoke alarm fitted has been on a downwards trend since 2017/18, although there was an increase in the number of incidents where a smoke alarm had alerted the occupants to the fire - from 84 last year to 100. There was a slight decrease in the number of ADFs that involved smoke alarms that had been fitted, but failed to operate - from 43 last year to 42.

RECOMMENDATION

- 8 That Members note the contents of the performance monitoring report.

INFORMATION

- 9 Attached at Appendix 1 for Members' information is the monitoring report for the period from 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021.

IMPLICATIONS

Well-being Objectives	Helps the Authority to monitor its performance against the improvement and well-being objectives set in the Corporate Plan 2021/24.
Budget	Helps to highlight any potential impacts on budget due to unanticipated incident activity.
Legal	Assists the Authority with ensuring that there are sufficient resources to meet the altering demands placed on it with changes in incident activity.
Staffing	No implication identified.
Equalities/Human Rights/ Welsh Language	No implication identified.
Risks	Not satisfying legal requirements to report on and monitor performance that may impact on the ability to ensure that there are sufficient resources to meet demand.

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE



**Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Fire and Rescue Service**

PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

Half Year

April – September 2021

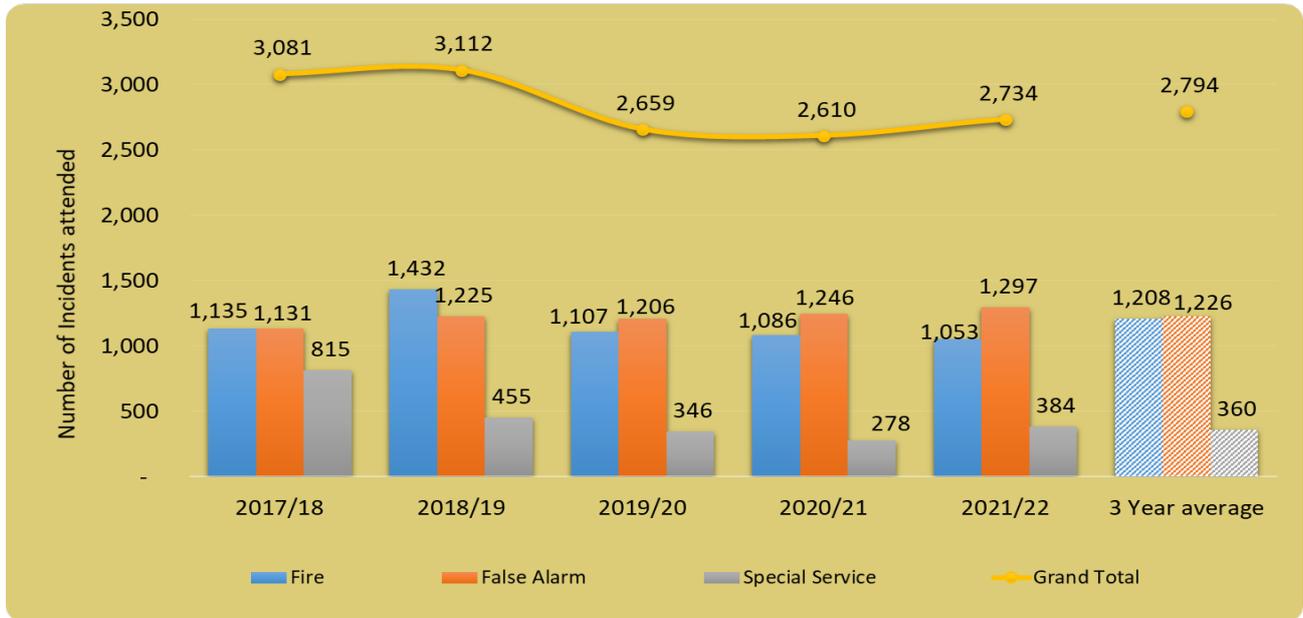
Figures are provisional and may be subject to minor amendment.

CONTENTS

INCIDENT ACTIVITY REPORTING	
ALL INCIDENTS	
Overview of all incidents attended	1
FIRES BY CATEGORY	
Fires by category and motive	2
Fires by property type and motive	3
FALSE ALARMS	
False alarms by category	4
SPECIAL SERVICE INCIDENTS	
Special service incidents by category	5
Road Traffic Collisions and Extrications/Release	6
MONITORING AGAINST OBJECTIVE 1- TO WORK TOWARDS MAKING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF PEOPLE IN WALES	
Accidental fires in dwellings	7
Fatalities and casualties from accidental fires in dwellings	8
Safe and Well Checks	9
Smoke alarm activation in accidental dwelling fires (ADFs)	10
GLOSSARY	
Glossary	11

1.0 All Incidents

1.1 During the first six months of 2021/22, the Service attended 2,734 emergency incidents and false alarms – 4.8% more than in the same period in 2020/21.



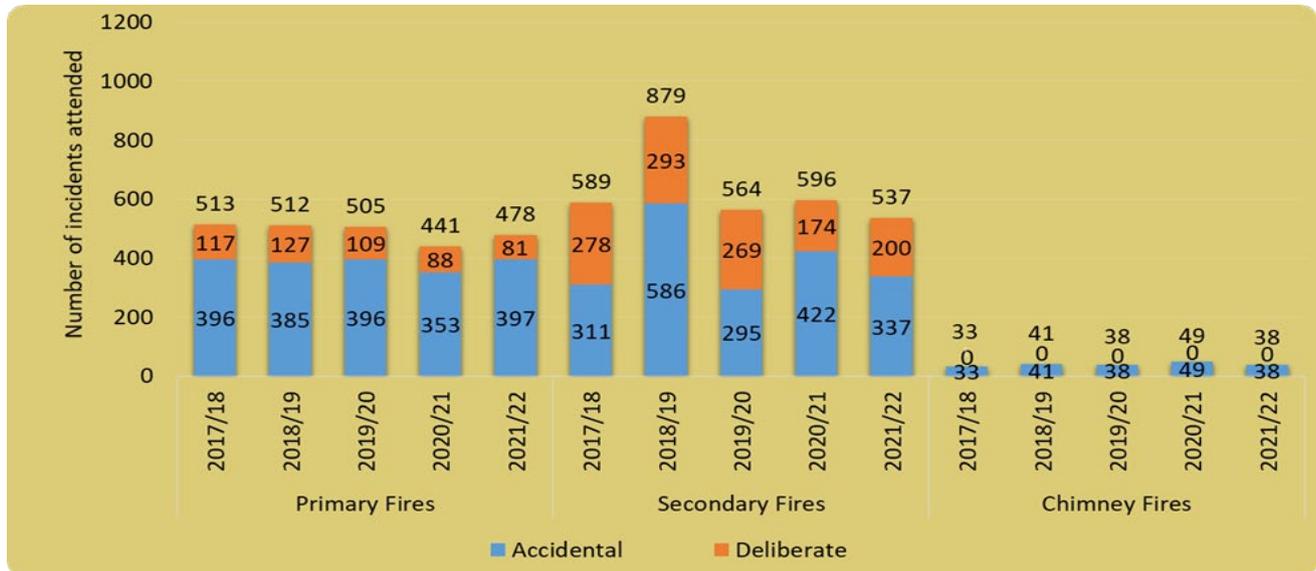
Category	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Period to date total	% change	Average of 3 previous comparative periods*	
Total incidents attended	2021-22	1,322	1,412			2,734	↑ 4.8%	2,794	↓ 2.1%
	2020-21	1,378	1,232			2,610			
Total fires	2021-22	575	478			1,053	↓ 3.0%	1,208	↓ 12.8%
	2020-21	653	433			1,086			
Total special service incidents	2021-22	152	232			384	↑ 38.1%	360	↑ 6.7%
	2020-21	96	182			278			
Total false alarms	2021-22	595	702			1,297	↑ 4.1%	1,226	↑ 5.8%
	2020-21	629	617			1,246			

*The columns in grey show: the average of the three previous financial years (based on the equivalent reporting period); the percentage change based on the difference between the current financial year and the three-year average.



2.0 Fires, by Category and Motive

- 2.1 **Primary fires** – have increased by 8.4% with the Buildings and Vehicle ('Road' and 'Other Transport') property types accounting for the majority of primary fires, an average of 70.7% and 23.6% respectively, with the remainder being 'Outdoor'.
- 2.2 **Secondary fires** – There was a 9.9% decrease in the overall number of secondary fires in 2021/22 compared to last year. The majority of secondary fires, 96.1%, occurred at 'Outdoor' property types.



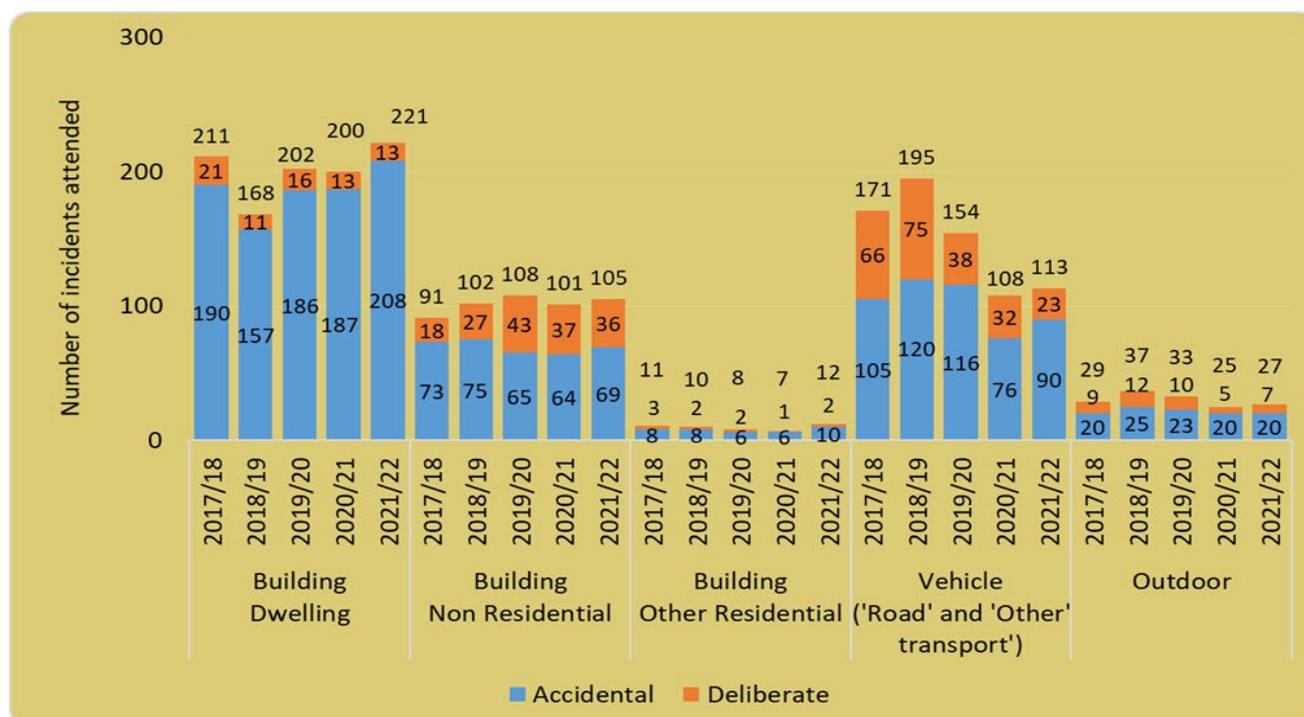
Category	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Period to date total	% change	Average of 3 previous comparative periods*	
Primary fires	2021-22	251	227			478	↑ 8.4%	486	↓ 1.6%
	2020-21	224	217			441			
Secondary fires	2021-22	293	244			537	↓ 9.9%	680	↓ 21.0%
	2020-21	394	202			596			
Chimney fires	2021-22	31	7			38	↓ 22.4%	43	↓ 11.6%
	2020-21	35	14			49			

*Right hand table shows average of the 3 previous financial years' comparative period with percentage change*The columns in grey show: the average of the three previous financial years (based on the equivalent reporting period); the percentage change based on the difference between the current financial year and the three-year average.



3.0 Primary Fires, by Property Type and Motive

3.1 During the first half of 2021/22 there were 36 primary fires started deliberately at non-residential buildings with 21 occurring at HMP Berwyn. In the same period last year, the service attended 37 deliberate fires at non-residential buildings with 25 occurring at HMP Berwyn.



Category	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Period to date total	% change	Average of 3 previous comparative periods*	
All deliberate primary fires	2021-22	40	41			81	↓ 8.0%	108	↓ 25.0%
	2020-21	41	47			88			

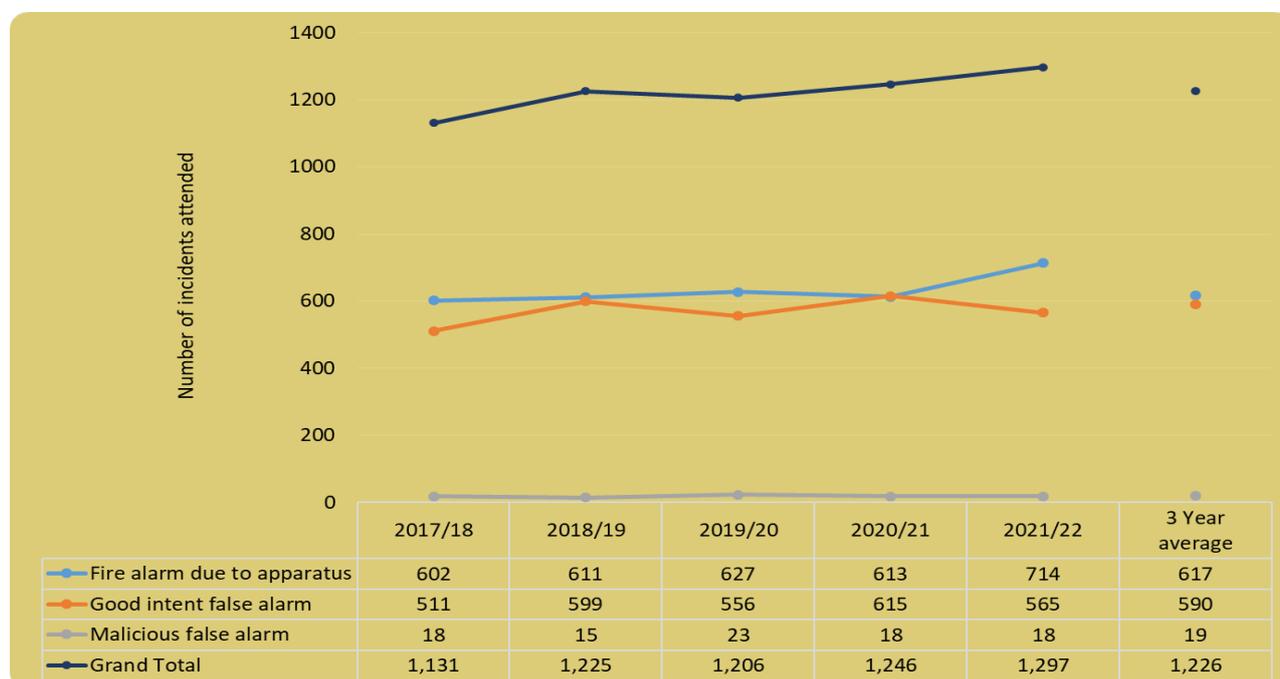
All accidental primary fires	2021-22	211	186			397	↑ 12.5%	378	↑ 5.0%
	2020-21	183	170			353			

*The columns in grey show: the average of the three previous financial years (based on the equivalent reporting period); the percentage change based on the difference between the current financial year and the three-year average.



4.0 False Alarms

4.1 During the first half of 2021/22 the Service attended 1,297 false alarms, a 4.1% increase from 1,246 the previous year. There was an 8.1% decrease in false alarms made with good intent, malicious false alarms were unchanged at 18, whilst false alarms due to apparatus (AFA false alarms) increased by 16.5%.



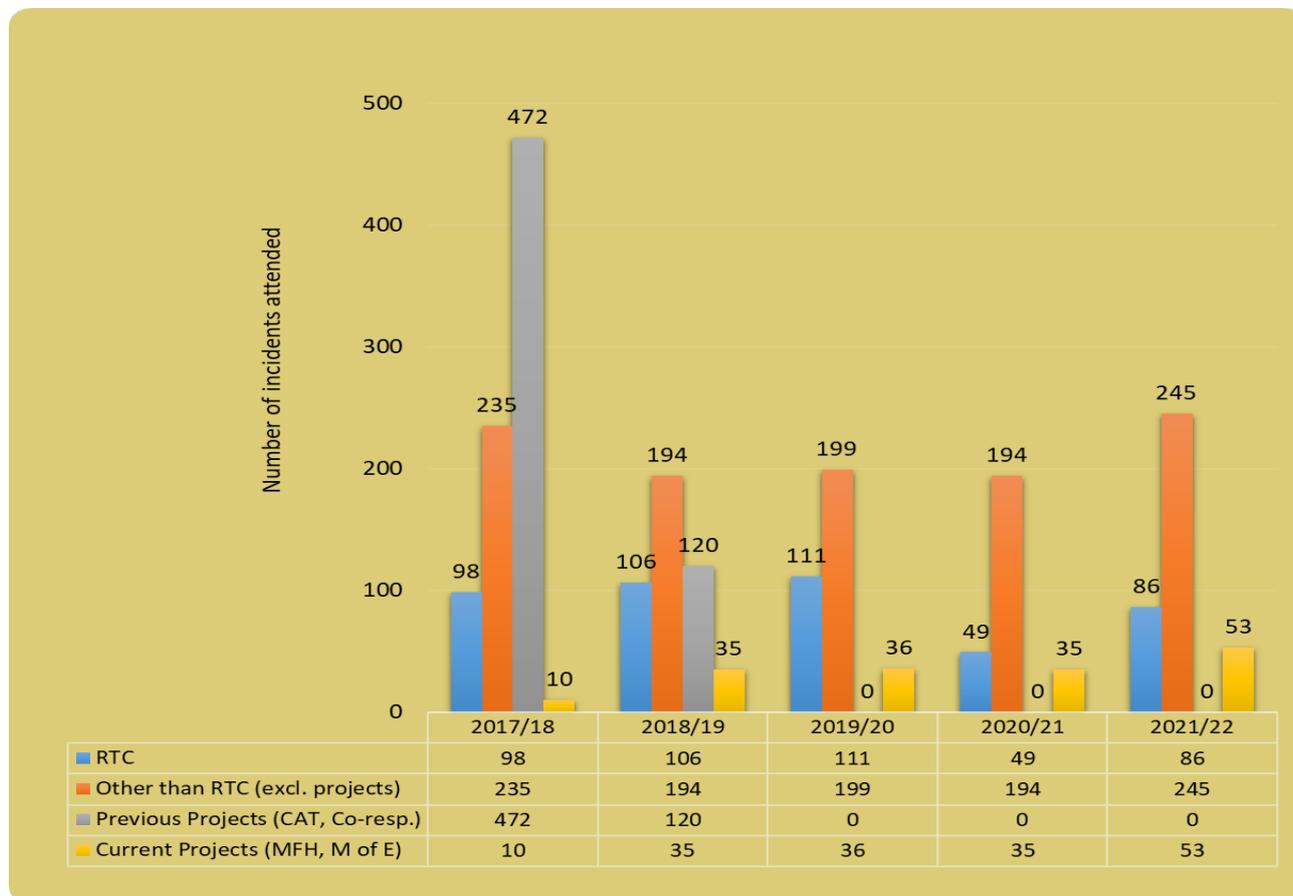
Category	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Period to date total	% change	Average of 3 previous comparative periods*	
Total false alarm	2021-22	595	702			1,297	↑ 4.1%	1,226	↑ 5.8%
	2020-21	629	617			1,246			
AFA	2021-22	311	403			714	↑ 16.5%	617	↑ 15.7%
	2020-21	282	331			613			
False alarms made with good intent	2021-22	278	287			565	↓ 8.1%	590	↓ 4.2%
	2020-21	330	285			615			
Malicious	2021-22	6	12			18	→ 0.0%	19	↓ 5.3%
	2020-21	17	1			18			

*The columns in grey show: the average of the three previous financial years (based on the equivalent reporting period); the percentage change based on the difference between the current financial year and the three-year average.



5.0 Special Service Incidents

5.1 There were 384 special service incidents during the first half of 2021/22 compared with 278 during the same period last year, an increase of 38.1%. Most significantly was an increase of 75.5% in the number of road traffic collisions.



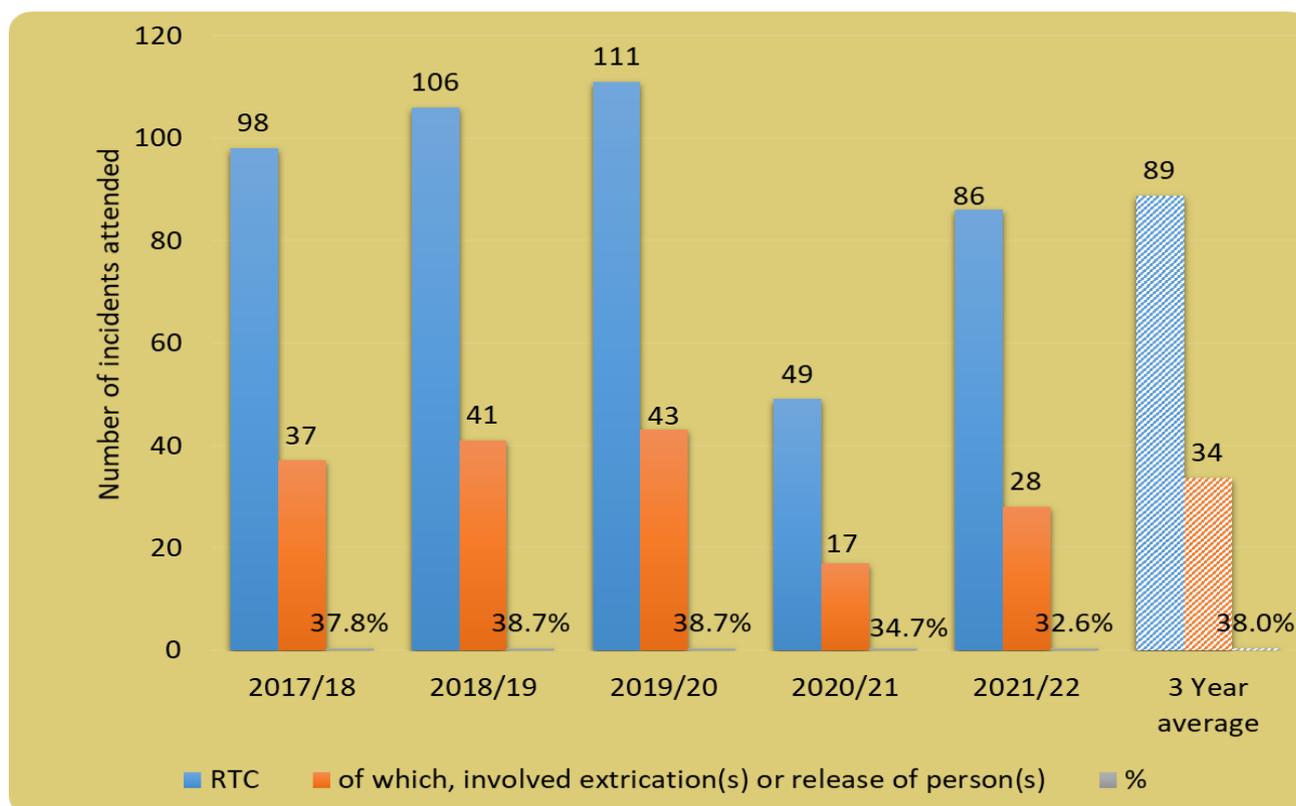
Category	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Period to date total	% change	Average of 3 previous comparative periods*	
Total special service incidents	2021-22	152	232			384	↑ 38.1%	360	↑ 6.7%
	2020-21	96	182			278			
Road traffic collisions (RTC)	2021-22	31	55			86	↑ 75.5%	89	↓ 3.4%
	2020-21	17	32			49			
Other than RTC	2021-22	121	177			298	↑ 30.1%	271	↑ 10.0%
	2020-21	79	150			229			



*The columns in grey show: the average of the three previous financial years (based on the equivalent reporting period); the percentage change based on the difference between the current financial year and the three-year average.

6.0 Road Traffic Collisions and Extractions/Release

6.1 During the first half of 2021/22 the Service attended 86 RTC incidents, a 75.5% increase when compared to the same period last year (49). There were 28 incidents, which involved extrication(s) and/or release(s) of person(s) (32.6%) compared with 17 (34.7%) during the same period the previous year.



86	RTC incidents attended
49	incidents where people sustained injury
28	incidents involved extrication / release

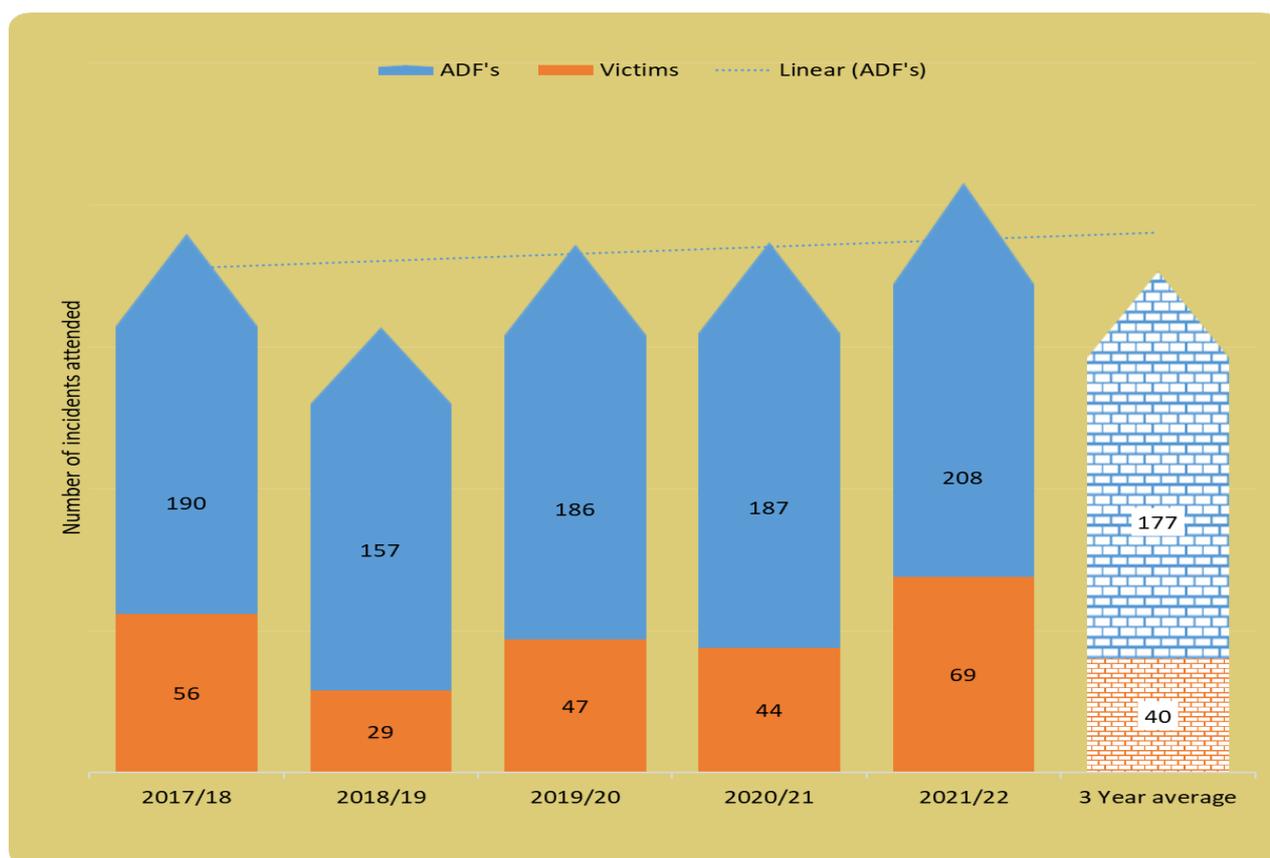
Severity of Injury *	Number of people
Precautionary check	5
First Aid	9
Injuries - Slight	38
Injuries - Serious	22
Fatalities	8

*RTC injuries - where available are recorded in the IRS in the same categorisation as fire injuries



7.0 Objective 1: To work towards making improvements to the health, safety and well-being of people in North Wales - support people to prevent accidental dwelling fires and stay safe if they do occur.

7.1 During the reporting period, the number of accidental fires in dwellings increased by 11.2% to 208 from 187 during the same period previous year. Of the 208 accidental dwelling fires attended, 90 incidents were related to cooking (chip pan/deep fat fryer and other cooking), a fault in equipment or an appliance, or the negligent use of equipment or an appliance (heat source). This represents a 28.6% (20) increase in the number of such incidents compared with the same period last year and 17.5% above the 3-year average of 177.



Category	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Period to date total	% change	Average of 3 previous comparative periods*	
								177	↑ 17.5%
Accidental fires in dwellings	2021-22	113	95			208	↑ 11.2%	177	↑ 17.5%
	2020-21	104	83			187			

*The columns in grey show: the average of the three previous financial years (based on the equivalent reporting period); the percentage change based on the difference between the current financial year and the three-year average.

8.0 Fatalities and casualties from accidental fires in dwellings

8.1 In the first six months of 2021/22, there were 66 non-fatal casualties from accidental fires in dwellings, which included three serious injuries and 19 slight injuries. There were three fatalities from accidental fires in dwellings, all pending confirmation from the coroner.

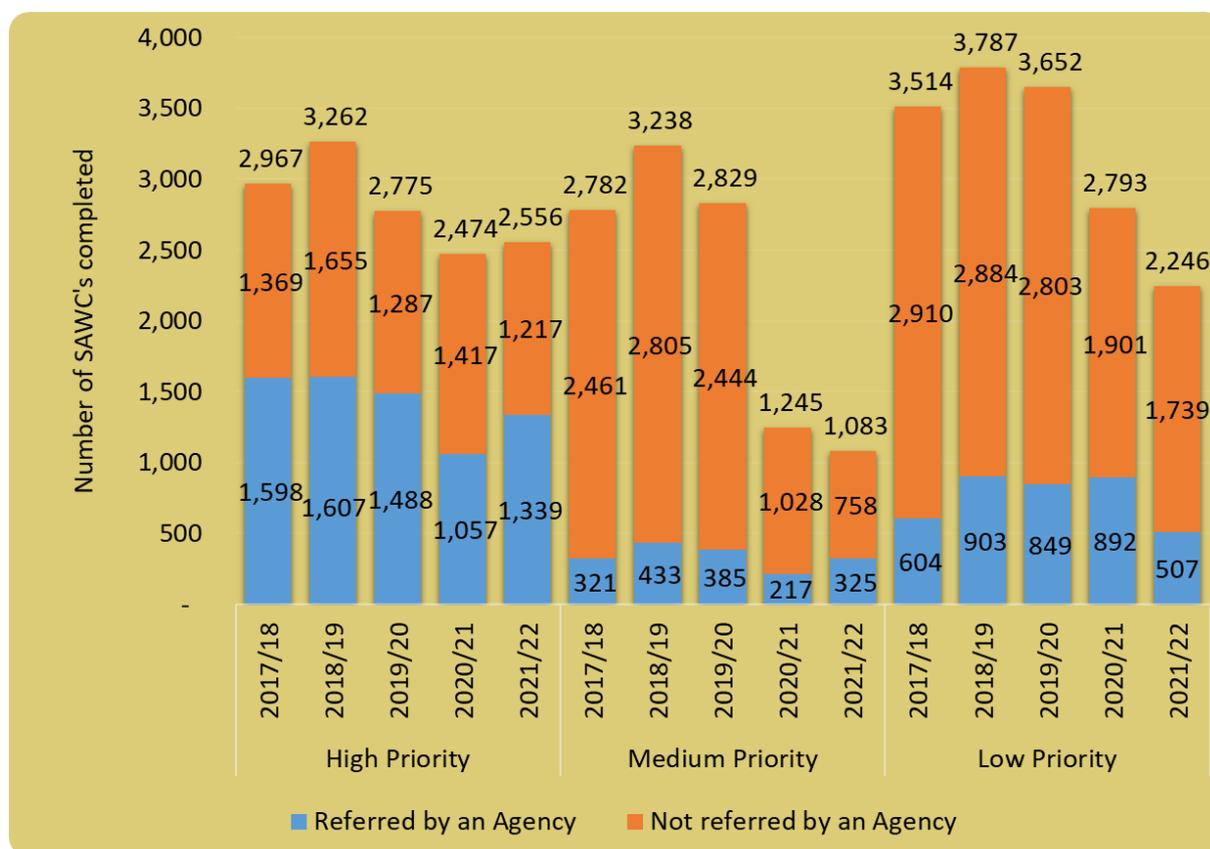
Severity of injury	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Precautionary Check	20	8	9	18	22
First Aid	10	11	22	11	22
Injuries - Slight	23	8	12	12	19
Injuries - Serious	2	0	3	0	3
Fatality	1	2	1	3	3
Total	56	29	47	44	69

Category	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Period to date total	Change	Average of 3 previous comparative periods	
								38	↑ 28
Injuries from accidental fires in dwellings	2021-22	43	23			66	↑ 25	38	↑ 28
	2020-21	26	15			41			
Deaths from accidental fires in dwellings	2021-22	3	0			3	→ 0		
	2020-21	3	0			3			



9.0 Safe and Well Checks

9.1 During the reporting period 5,885 Safe and Well Checks (SAWC's) were delivered, of which 2,167 (36.9%) were to households referred by partner agencies, including 3,387 face-to-face SAWC's compared to 958 during the same period last year. Fewer SAWC's were carried out over the telephone this reporting period (2,493) compared with 5,547 completed during the same period last year.



Category	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Period to date total	% change	3 previous comparative periods*	
% of all Safe and Well Checks undertaken that originated from a referral from a partner organisation	2021-22	39%	37%			38%	↑ 6pp	28%	↑ 10pp
	2020-21	30%	33%			32%			
*The columns in grey show: the average of the three previous financial years (based on the equivalent reporting period); the percentage change based on the difference between the current financial year and the three-year average.									



10.0 Smoke Detectors – Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADFs)

10.1 Smoke/heat detectors can provide early warning of a fire and were present at the majority (87.5%) of accidental fires in dwellings during the reporting period. The number of accidental dwelling fires where no detector was fitted decreased by 3.7% compared with the previous year. The number of incidents where a smoke detector was fitted but didn't operate, decreased by 2.3% to 42 compared with 43 during the same period last year. Where a smoke detector was fitted which operated but did not raise the alarm, the number of incidents increased to 40 compared with the previous year (33).

Category	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Period to date total	% change	Average of 3 previous comparative periods*	
Smoke detector fitted which operated and raised alarm	2021-22	54	46			100	↑ 19.0%	81	↑ 23.5%
	2020-21	48	36			84			
Smoke detector didn't operate	2021-22	26	16			42	↓ 2.3%	42	→ 0.0%
	2020-21	22	21			43			
Smoke detector fitted which operated but didn't raise the alarm	2021-22	20	20			40	↑ 21.2%	32	↑ 25.0%
	2020-21	18	15			33			
Smoke detector not fitted	2021-22	13	13			26	↓ 3.7%	22	↑ 18.2%
	2020-21	16	11			27			
*The columns in grey show: the average of the three previous financial years (based on the equivalent reporting period); the percentage change based on the difference between the current financial year and the three-year average.									

Glossary

Fires	All fires fall into one of three categories – primary, secondary or chimney.
Primary Fires	<p>These are fires that are not chimney fires, and which are in any type of building (except if derelict), vehicles, caravans and trailers, outdoor storage, plant and machinery, agricultural and forestry property, and other outdoor structures such as bridges, post boxes, tunnels, etc.</p> <p>Fires in any location are categorised as primary fires if they involved casualties, rescues or escapes, as are fires in any location that were attended by five or more fire appliances.</p>
Secondary Fires	<p>Secondary fires are fires that are neither chimney fires nor primary fires.</p> <p>Secondary fires do not involve casualties, rescues or escapes, and will have been attended by four or fewer fire appliances.</p> <p>Secondary fires are those that would normally occur in locations such as open land, in single trees, fences, telegraph poles, refuse and refuse containers (but not paper banks, which would be considered - in the same way as agricultural and forestry property - to be primary fires), outdoor furniture, traffic lights, etc.</p>
Chimney Fires	<p>These are fires in occupied buildings where the fire is confined within the chimney structure, even if heat or smoke damage extends beyond the chimney itself.</p> <p>Chimney fires do not involve casualties, rescues or escapes, and will have been attended by four or fewer fire appliances.</p>
Special Service Incidents	<p>These are non-fire incidents which require the attendance of an appliance or officer and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Local emergencies e.g. flooding, road traffic incidents, rescue of persons, 'making safe' etc; b) Major disasters; c) Domestic incidents e.g. water leaks, persons locked in or out etc; d) Prior arrangements to attend incidents, which may include some provision of advice and inspections.
False Alarm (general guidance)	<p>Where the FRS attends a location believing there to be an incident, but on arrival discovers that no such incident exists, or existed.</p> <p>Note: if the appliance is 'turned around' by Control before arriving at the incident it is not classed as having been attended and does not need to be reported.</p>
False Alarms - Malicious	These are calls made with the intention of getting the FRS to attend a non-existent incident, including deliberate and suspected malicious intentions.
False Alarms – Good Intent	These are calls made in good faith in the belief that the FRS really would attend a fire or special service incident.
False Alarms - AFA	These are calls initiated by fire alarm and fire-fighting equipment. They include accidental initiation of alarm apparatus or where an alarm operates and a person then routinely calls the FRS as part of a standing arrangement, i.e. with no 'judgement' involved, for example from a security call centre or a nominated person in an organisation).

Report to	Executive Panel
Date	18 October 2021
Lead Officer	Helen MacArthur
Contact Officer	Helen MacArthur, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Finance and Resources) (01745 535258)
Subject	Budget Setting 2022/2023



PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 This report is to present to Members the budget process, planning assumptions and timescales for setting the Fire and Rescue Authority's (the Authority) revenue budget for 2022/23.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2 The Authority is required to set the revenue budget for 2022/23 at its meeting on 20 December 2021. The preliminary work required to establish the base budget has commenced which includes a review of current expenditure levels, key planning assumptions and risks. A summary is provided in Appendix 1.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3 Members are asked to:
 - (i) note the planning assumptions being used to set the revenue budget for 2022/23; and
 - (ii) note the proposal to seek approval for the 2022/23 revenue budget by the Authority at its meeting of 20 December 2021.

BACKGROUND

- 4 Each year the Authority is required to set a balanced revenue budget which must be approved by the full Authority before the commencement of the financial year. Although the term "balanced" is not formally defined in the legislation, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance (CIPFA) recognises that organisations should have financial plans which demonstrate how expenditure will be funded over the short and medium term.
- 5 The Authority's financial sustainability in the short and medium term is underpinned by knowledge and understanding of key cost drivers including the evaluation of risks and uncertainties. Pivotal to this is an understanding of service demands, resources available and the future strategic vision.

- 6 Since taking up post on the 1 July 2021, the Chief Fire Officer has undertaken a series of meetings internally with staff, representatives of the Fire Brigades Union, other emergency service leaders as well as local Authority colleagues.
- 7 This work culminated in a presentation to Members on 20 September 2021 to discuss the situational assessment. This confirmed that the key challenges facing the Authority are maintaining sufficient availability of on-call fire crews; ensuring sufficient resources to maintain and develop firefighter skills; and having enough corporate capacity to meet current and future demand.
- 8 In addition to these specific areas of challenge, the Authority is also facing the uncertainties common to all public sector bodies as we emerge from the pandemic. In particular, the need for a localised and cohesive approach to partnership working whilst managing the impact of inflation, supply issues, increasing costs of national insurance and wage inflation.
- 9 Although the initial budget assessment for 2022/23 presented to the Authority in November 2020 indicated a net budget requirement of £38.08m, it will be necessary to revise this to fully reflect the issues identified.
- 10 The budget planning for the 2022/23 financial year will focus on the issues identified within the Chief Fire Officer's presentation of 20 September 2021. These risks and challenges will be further considered by Members of the Authority in a planning workshop to be held on the 2 November 2021.
- 11 Further work will be undertaken with the constituent local authorities to ensure that the Authority's budget requirements are fully communicated.

INFORMATION

- 12 Following further review, the initial planning assessment is being revised and additional information is provided within Appendix 1. The 2022/23 draft revenue budget will be prepared and considered for approval by the Authority at its meeting on 20 December 2021.
- 13 The situational assessment has identified challenges in relation to availability of retained stations, corporate capacity and training of firefighters. Following approval from the Authority, detailed reviews are being planned to provide further insight for medium and longer term planning. Short term actions are also required to address immediate pressures and this matter will be progressed with Members at the planning workshop in November 2021. The costs associated with the short term imperatives will be included in the budget assessment for 2022/23.

- 14 Employee costs typically account for in excess of 70% of expenditure and the current planning assessment assumes a pay award of 2% for all staff groups. It is noted that the national pay negotiations have not been concluded and this represents a significant risk at this time. It is estimated that a further £0.2m would be required for each 1% above the planning assumption.
- 15 A further risk to employee costs relates to the employer pension contributions for firefighters which increased during 2019/20 following a revaluation by the Government Actuary's Department. The valuation of pensions is a complex area involving long term projections. Following a change to the assumptions the employer contributions for unfunded schemes increased significantly in 2019/20. Since that time, the Welsh Government has provided financial support. The position has not yet been confirmed for 2022/23 onwards and this represents a risk of £1.1m. At this time, the budget assumption is that funding will be received.
- 16 The UK Government has announced that employer's class 1 national insurance contributions will increase to cover NHS and social care costs in the UK. Applicable from April 2022, the additional 1.25% represents an immediate cost pressure of circa £0.2m.
- 17 Although an inflationary increase has been applied to non-pay budgets a number of significant risks and uncertainties remain. These include fuel and utility costs which remain unpredictable due to price and supply issues. In addition, the availability and costs of other commodities such as building supplies, ICT equipment and fleet parts are also of concern given the complexity of supply chains and global uncertainty.
- 18 There are a number of further risks within non-pay budgets including uncertainty over Welsh Government funding for the national Emergency Services Network (communication).
- 19 Capital financing costs include the costs of borrowing and revenue charges for using capital assets. A review of the capital programme has been undertaken to support the management of these costs. Uncertainty remains over the cost of borrowing and an earmarked reserve is held to mitigate the impact of unexpected fluctuations.

IMPLICATIONS

Well-being Objectives	This report links to the Authority's Improvement and Well-being Objectives. It reports on the financial viability of the Authority.
Budget	The initial assessment of £38.08m contained within the medium term financial plan approved by Members during November 2020 will be revised to reflect the current assessment.
Legal	The Fire and Rescue Authority has a legal duty to set a balanced budget based on realistic planning assumptions.
Staffing	Typically over 70% of expenditure relates to staff costs and therefore is a material factor when considering future financial stability. The risks identified by the Chief Fire Officer include the need to recruit further retained duty staff and also build corporate resilience.
Equalities/Human Rights/Welsh Language	These issues will be factored into budget setting proposals.
Risks	The key risks and uncertainties to the 2022/23 budget have been outlined in Appendix 1.

Summary of planning assumptions and risks

Heading	Planning assumptions used in budget setting	Risks/Uncertainties
Employee costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The staffing budgets will be formulated on existing service delivery models and updated to address the risks identified within the Chief Fire Officer's situational assessment. It is anticipated that additional posts will be required to meet training requirements and corporate capacity issues. • The initial planning assessment presented to members in November 2020 assumed a national pay award of 2%. This remains a key risk with a cost of £0.2m for each 1% above this rate. • National insurance contributions have increased by 1.25% and no central governmental support is assumed within the budget setting process. • It is assumed that the increases to the employer pension contribution rates arising from the Government Actuary's Department valuation will continue to be grant funded by the Welsh Government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Joint Council (NJC) has reached agreement on the firefighter pay award for 2021/22 but not yet published proposals for 2022/23. • The National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services has not yet reached agreement on the pay award for staff on LGPS contracts for 2021/22. • The budget planning assumes normal levels of activity. If spate conditions occur budget pressures will be experienced. The working assumption is that the General Fund would be utilised in the first instance. • The Welsh Government has not yet confirmed that the grant to support the increase in employer contributions for the firefighter pension scheme will continue. The costs for 2022/23 are estimated to be £1.1m • In December 2018, the government lost its appeal to the legal challenge of the transitional pension arrangements for firefighters. The remedy will apply across the public sector pension schemes. The financial outcome is unknown and no provision has been made. • Following the public inquiry into the Grenfell disaster the Fire Safety Act (2021) has introduced changes to building regulations. This includes changes to responsibilities which will impact on the fire and rescue sector. The impact is currently being assessed and no provision has yet been made within the budget assessment.

Heading	Planning assumptions used in budget setting	Risks/Uncertainties
Non Pay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The initial planning assessment recognised an average increase of 3% across non pay budgets. This remains an area of significant risk and uncertainty. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst the Service continues to review non-pay costs and strives to manage cost pressures within the planned budget this remains an area of risk due to ongoing pressures within the supply chain arising from price rises and availability issues. This position is being carefully managed but due to significant volatility it is not possible to quantify the impact. No provision has been made in the budget for exceptional costs that may be experienced during the 2022/23 financial year. The national procurement of an Emergency Services Network is progressing but significant delays are being experienced. The existing contract has been extended and the Authority currently receives £0.4m from the Welsh Government towards the provision of the existing service. The assumption is that the current revenue support will continue although this has not yet been confirmed. Although the Authority continues to work towards reducing its carbon footprint detailed plans have not yet been formalised. This work will progress during 2022/23 and no budget provision has been included.
Capital Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The capital financing requirement for 2022/23 is influenced by the capital expenditure incurred to March 2022. Current estimates for the 2021/22 financial year indicate an outturn of £1.3m against the approved plan of £3.0m. The reduction has mainly arisen due to slippage in the delivery of new vehicles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential increase in interest rates is unknown and may exceed planning assumptions.
Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income budgets have been reviewed and set in line with previous years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific risks have been identified over and above the grant income from the Welsh Government referenced within this report.

Report to	Executive Panel	
Date	18 October 2021	
Lead Officer	Shân Morris, Assistant Chief Officer (Corporate Policy and Planning)	
Contact Officer	Pippa Hardwick, Corporate Planning Manager	
Subject	Review of Improvement and Well-being Objectives in the Authority's Corporate Plan 2021-24	

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To review the Fire and Rescue Authority's long-term objectives that are contained in its Corporate Plan 2021-24.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Every March the Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority) publishes a Plan for the following financial year, setting out its agreed improvement and well-being objectives and outlining the actions it proposes to take towards achieving those objectives during the year. The Authority published its most recent Corporate Plan earlier this year for the period of 2021-24.
3. Although the relevant legislation does not stipulate how often a public body must change its objectives, there is a requirement to undertake an annual review of its well-being objectives to assess whether or not they are still relevant and appropriate.
4. Over the coming months Officers will be revisiting the content of the Authority's Corporate Plan 2021-24 in order to update the lists of planned actions underpinning each strategic objective. To this end, the Authority is asked to consider whether it wishes to continue to pursue the same long-term objectives next year, or alternatively to suggest changes that can be written into next year's updated version of the Corporate Plan 2021-24.
5. Based on the Annual Performance Assessment that was approved by the full Authority at its last meeting, there was no indication that a revision or change to the existing set of seven long-term objectives would be of benefit at such an early stage.

RECOMMENDATION

6. That the Authority confirms its intention to continue to pursue its existing seven long-term objectives in 2022/23, and requests an updated version of the Corporate Plan 2021-24 be prepared by Officers for approval in March 2022.

BACKGROUND

7. Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) in Wales are required to publish improvement objectives in accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, and well-being objectives in compliance with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. For the purposes of the Authority's planning processes these are treated as one and the same.
8. Part 2 of the Well-being of Future Generations Act (the Act) places a duty on the Authority to carry out sustainable development, which must include:
 - a) setting and publishing well-being objectives that are designed to maximise its contribution to achieving each of the well-being goals set for the whole of Wales; and
 - b) taking all reasonable steps (in exercising its functions) to meet those objectives.
9. In the normal run of the planning cycle, the Authority outlines proposed objectives for the forthcoming year during the autumn/winter, and in March it approves a Plan detailing shorter-term actions that support its longer-term objectives.

INFORMATION

10. The Authority set itself seven long-term well-being objectives in its Improvement and Well-being Plan 2020/21. In March 2021 Members resolved to carry these forward into a Corporate Plan 2021-24.

The Authority's long-term objectives are:

- To work towards making improvements to the health, safety and well-being of people in North Wales.
- To continue to work collaboratively to help communities improve their resilience.
- To operate as effectively and efficiently as possible, making the best use of the resources available.
- To continue to identify opportunities to encourage greater engagement with people, communities, staff and stakeholders.

- To maintain a suitably resilient, skilled, professional and flexible workforce.
 - To develop ways of becoming more environmentally conscious in order to minimise the impact of our activity on the environment.
 - To ensure that social value and sustainability are considered, including during procurement processes.
11. The underpinning actions for 2021/22 that would contribute to achieving these long-term objectives were also approved in March 2021. Although some of the actions will have been achieved by March 2022, others will inevitably need to be carried over into future years.
 12. Under the Act the Authority is required to review its objectives at least once a year, but it does not have to change them. In assessing whether its objectives continue to be appropriate, the Authority must consider to what extent:
 - they contribute to achieving the well-being goals for Wales;
 - they are consistent with the sustainable development principle – i.e. that they help to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs; and
 - the Authority is taking all reasonable steps to meet those objectives.
 13. If the assessment indicates a need to change any objectives, the Authority would be expected to explain what has changed, and why the change has happened. The Authority would also need to take into account the Future Generations Commissioner's Future Generations Report that was published in May 2020.
 14. At its meeting in September 2021 the Authority approved the Annual Performance Assessment 2020/21 for publication on its website. This Assessment describes progress and achievements last year in support of the Authority's objectives. It also explains how each of the Authority's objectives contributes to achieving the well-being goals for Wales and is consistent with the sustainable development principle.
 15. Many of the actions in support of the objectives evidence the fact that the Authority continues to take a long term view through its community-based prevention role, helping to inform, educate and equip people to live safe and fulfilling lives. It also acts responsibly in relation to protecting natural habitats and the Environment more generally.
 16. The Annual Performance Assessment did not indicate a need to revise or change the existing set of seven long-term objectives.

17. Some of the underpinning actions will necessarily be different in 2022/23, but these will be included in the revised Corporate Plan 2021-24 for approval by the Authority in March 2022.

IMPLICATIONS

Well-being Objectives	Direct implication for confirming or revising the Authority's long-term well-being objectives.
Budget	There is a clear relationship between the Authority's plans for delivering the objectives within the 2021/24 Corporate Plan and the level of financial resources available.
Legal	Supports compliance with improvement planning and well-being legislation.
Staffing	No known impact on staffing levels at this time.
Equalities/Human Rights/Welsh Language	The impact of specific actions on these aspects will be assessed at the appropriate point in their development.
Risks	Reduces the risks of legal non-compliance and of failing to budget and plan appropriately.

Report to	Executive Panel
Date	18 October 2021
Lead Officer	Shân Morris, Assistant Chief Officer (Corporate Policy and Planning)
Contact Officer	Pippa Hardwick, Corporate Planning Manager
Subject	Strategic Risk Management



PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To summarise the content of the Authority's strategic risk register in accordance with the Strategic Risk Management Policy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Through regular review, a number of risks are identified as having the potential to prevent the Authority from achieving its planned outcomes and/or delivering its core functions. Of the full range of risks, the ones that are currently considered to be the highest relate to the Authority's level of resilience to either an attack on its computer systems or to a sudden loss of staff with specialist knowledge and/or experience of the Service's business. Even with planned countermeasures, these are likely to remain at a high risk level.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. That Members note the identified strategic risks that are facing the Authority.

BACKGROUND

4. The Authority's adopted Strategic Risk Management Policy defines strategic risk as "an event that, should it occur, would impact on the achievement of the Authority's planned outcomes and/or the delivery of its core functions".
5. The Authority's Strategic Risk Register lists known risks that could potentially prevent the Authority from achieving its planned outcomes and/or delivering its core functions. Register entries are ascribed risk scores that are regularly re-evaluated by officers to reflect the current state and the predicted effect of planned countermeasures.

6. Under this policy, the Executive Panel receives a summary report on strategic risks at least twice a year. Between times, the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority are able to view the full detail of the register with officers.
7. The Strategic Risk Register records both current risk levels and future risk levels (based on an assumption that planned countermeasures will have had the desired effect).
8. Risk levels are based on an evaluation of the likelihood that something might happen and the consequences if it did. Descriptions are provided for information at Appendix 1.

INFORMATION

9. Officers continue to review and update the risk register, adding, removing and re-scoring risks as appropriate. A summary of the current register entries is provided at Appendix 2.

IMPLICATIONS

Well-being Objectives	Maintaining the register and taking action to manage risk increases the likelihood that the Authority's well-being objectives will be achieved.
Budget	Maintaining the register helps prioritise spending decisions that would reduce risk levels.
Legal	Maintaining the register helps to ensure the Authority's compliance with laws that define its functions and how it operates.
Staffing	No specific implications identified.
Equalities/Human Rights/Welsh Language	No specific implications identified.
Risks	An accidental release of the register could expose the Authority to harm.

Risk analysis

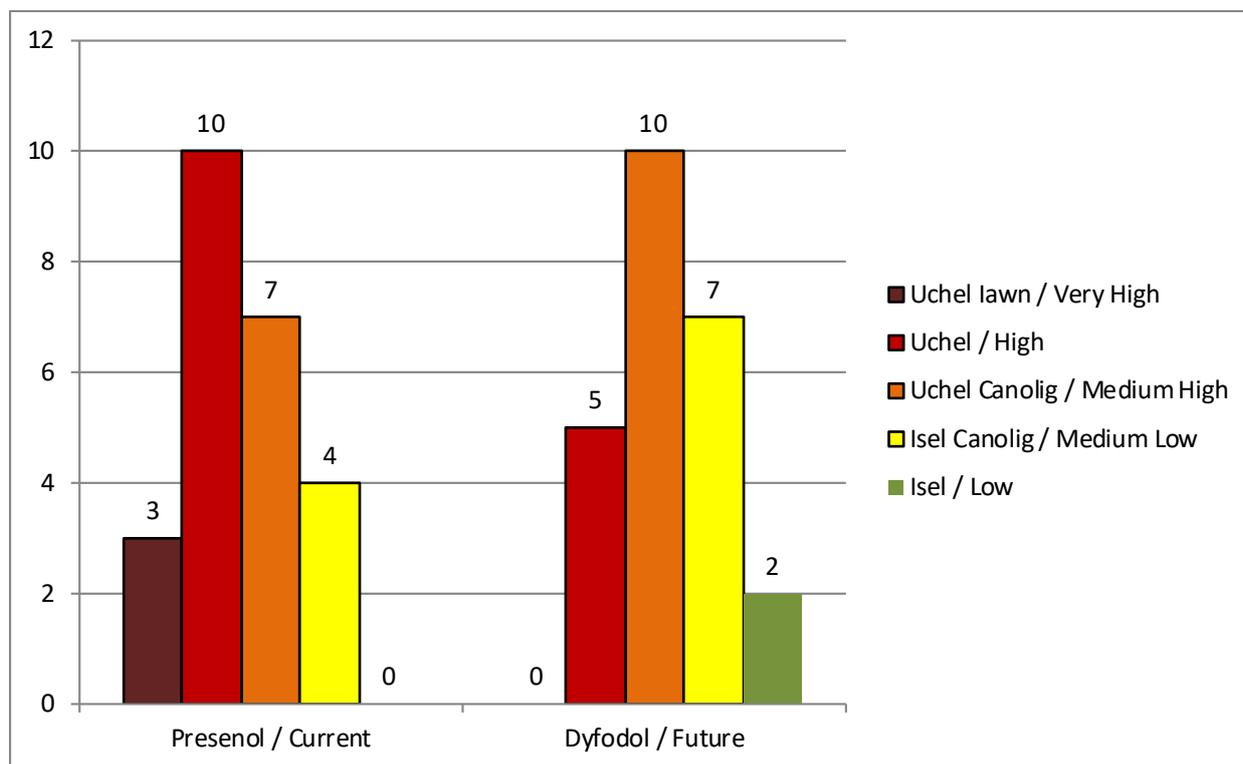
LIKELIHOOD	5 Almost certain	5	10	15	20	25
	4 Likely	4	8	12	16	20
	3 Possible	3	6	9	12	15
	2 Unlikely	2	4	6	8	10
	1 Very unlikely	1	2	3	4	5
		1 Insignificant	2 Minor	3 Moderate	4 Significant	5 Major
		CONSEQUENCE				

Risk priority scale

Value	Priority scale
20-25	Very high - risk is intolerably high
12-16	High - risk is substantial
8-10	Medium high - risk is moderate
4-6	Medium low - risk is tolerable
1-3	Low

Strategic Risk Register as at 18/10/2021

- I. The chart below illustrates the current and future levels ascribed to identified strategic risks facing the Authority.



II. Very high risk

Three risks have been identified as presenting a very high risk to the Authority. These relate to:

- the risk of attack on the Service's computer systems;
- the ability to deliver core services or to recruit and train new staff quickly enough to maintain current capacity in the event of a viral pandemic, such as coronavirus, especially given the difficulties with maintaining availability of RDS stations and of ensuring sufficient fire-fighter training;
- the level of resilience to sudden loss of staff with specialist knowledge and/or experience of the Service's business considering its limited corporate capacity.

With planned countermeasures it is anticipated that these will reduce to a high risk level.

III. High risk

Ten risks have been identified as presenting a high risk to the Authority. In summary, and in no particular order, these relate to:

- terrorist and/or criminal misappropriation of assets;
- unanticipated (permanent or semi-permanent) depletion of staff affecting emergency response capability;
- insufficient funds or resources to deliver core services or to maintain risk-critical systems;
- failure to secure sufficient operational resources;
- the Service's capacity to deal with additional (externally imposed) burdens, including the environmental sustainability agenda;
- the possibility of a personal data breach under GDPR;
- disruption of established relationships with local government partners;
- the impact of an ageing workforce profile;
- the importance for service delivery of a fit and healthy workforce;
- maintaining the ability to provide risk information electronically to operational staff.

With planned countermeasures it is anticipated that two will remain at a high risk level, five will be reduced to a medium high risk level, two will be reduced to a medium low risk level and one will be reduced to a low risk level.

IV. Medium high risk

Seven medium high risks have been identified. In summary and in no particular order, these relate to: the impact of changes to governance arrangements for FRAs in Wales; a serious injury to a member of staff whilst at work; a delay in the planned national communications project; insufficient grant funding to continue to deliver fire prevention activities; the inherent risks associated with diversification of services; involvement in partnership projects and maintaining operational consistency with other UK Fire and Rescue Services and the ability to record and report on the skills of operational employees.

With planned countermeasures it is anticipated that five would remain at medium high risk level, and two would reduce to a medium low risk level.

V. Medium low risk

Four medium low risks have been identified. In summary and in no particular order, these relate to: ineffective or deficient decision-making at Authority level; ineffective corporate communications; failing to anticipate and tackle problems in good time; and the impact on delivery of services of strike or industrial action.

With planned countermeasures, three of these risks would remain at medium low risk level and one would be reduced to a low risk level.