


Report to	<b>North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority</b>	
Date	<b>21 July 2025</b>	
Lead Officer	<b>Elgan Roberts, Head of Finance and Procurement</b>	
Contact Officer	<b>Elgan Roberts, Head of Finance and Procurement</b>	
Subject	<b>Draft Statement of Accounts 2024-25</b>	

## **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1 To present the unaudited Statement of Accounts for 2024/25, encompassing the revenue and capital outturn, the balance sheet position, and key financial movements for North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority).
- 2 To seek delegated authority for the approval of the final audited Statement of Accounts to the Executive Panel at its meeting scheduled for 15 September 2025.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 3 The Authority has maintained a strong financial position despite ongoing pressures. The 2024/25 revenue outturn shows a surplus of £293k, with usable reserves increasing to £10.879m. The full accounts including the narrative report are included within Appendix i.
- 4 Capital expenditure totalled £3.087m, with £2.589m carried forward. The accounts incorporate the adoption of IFRS 16 and continued investment in sustainability, training infrastructure, and operational resilience.
- 5 The report also includes the response provided to Audit Wales following enquiries in relation to the governance arrangements relevant to the Statement of Account, attached as Appendix ii.

## **OBSERVATIONS FROM AUDIT COMMITTEE**

- 6 The report was presented to the Audit Committee on 16 June 2025, where Members noted its contents and formally endorsed. A specific query was raised regarding the adequacy of reserves and whether they were sufficient to mitigate risks. It was confirmed that, in principle, usable reserves could be applied to offset one-off costs associated with the levy; however, this remains contingent on the level of activity remaining constant.
- 7 Appreciation was expressed by both the Chair and the Section 151 Officer for the considerable effort involved in publishing the accounts by the statutory deadline of the end of May.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

8 It is recommended that Members:

- i) Approve the unaudited revenue and capital outturn position;**
- ii) Approve the unaudited balance sheet position;**
- iii) Approve the movement to and from reserves; and**
- iv) Approve the delegation of authority for the approval of the audited Statement of Accounts to the Executive Panel.**

## BACKGROUND

- 9 The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 require the Authority to prepare and publish a statement of accounts on an annual basis. The pre-Covid timescales prescribed within the Regulations require a draft statement of accounts to be issued by 31 May, with an audit deadline of 31 July each year.
- 10 The Welsh Government, following consultation with the Society of Welsh Treasurers and Audit Wales, confirmed that the draft statement of accounts for 2024/25 should be prepared no later than 30 June 2025, and that the statement of accounts should be audited by the 31 October 2025.
- 11 The draft Statement of Accounts were certified by the Authority's Treasurer on 30 May 2025 and the external audit by Audit Wales is currently in progress. Following the conclusion of the audit the accounts will be presented to the full Fire Authority for final approval.

## INFORMATION

- 12 The Statement of Accounts has been prepared in accordance with CIPFA's Code of Practice and provides a comprehensive overview of the Authority's financial performance and position for the year ended 31 March 2025.
- 13 It also includes a Narrative Report, which outlines the Authority's operational context, strategic priorities, and key achievements. The purpose of the Narrative Report is to help stakeholders understand the financial statements and the broader environment in which the Authority operates.
- 14 The Statement of Accounts confirms that the year-end balance of usable reserves is £10.879m (Note 8, page 36) which includes the surplus of £0.293m on the general fund and increases of £1.540m in earmarked reserves.

## IMPLICATIONS

Wellbeing Objectives	This report links to the Authority'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 in accordance with the prescribed standards.
Staffing	Effective financial management supports the long-term workforce strategy to ensure that the Authority is able to discharge its responsibilities
Equalities/ Human Rights/Welsh Language	None
Risks and Uncertainties	Income and expenditure are closely monitored to ensure that deviations from the approved budget are properly identified and reported to Members.