

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

Minutes of the **Audit Committee** of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority held on Monday 20 March 2023 virtually via Zoom. Meeting commenced at 09.30hrs.

**Councillor**

Mark Young (Deputy Chair)  
Bryan Apsley  
Marion Bateman  
Michelle Blakeley-Walker  
Tina Claydon  
Neil Coverley  
Adele Davies-Cooke  
Jeff Evans  
John Brynmor Hughes  
Marc Jones  
Gwynfor Owen  
Beverley Parry-Jones  
Arwyn Herald Roberts  
Austin Roberts

**Representing**

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

**Also present:**

Dawn Docx  
Stewart Forshaw  
Helen MacArthur  
Dafydd Edwards  
Gareth Owens  
Helen Howard  
George Jones  
Lisa Allington  
Louisa Phillips

Chief Fire Officer  
Deputy Chief Fire Officer  
Assistant Chief Fire Officer  
Treasurer  
Clerk and Monitoring Officer  
Head of Finance and Procurement  
Atebol - Translator  
Executive Assistant  
M365 Change Manager

**1 APOLOGIES**

**Councillor**

Nigel Smith (Chair)

**Representing**

Conwy County Borough Council

**ABSENT**

**Councillor**

**Representing**

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

2.1 There were no declarations of interest to record.

### **3 NOTICE OF URGENT MATTERS**

3.1 There was no notice of urgent matters.

### **4 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2022**

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2022 were submitted for approval.

4.2 **RESOLVED to:**

**i) approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meetings held.**

### **5 MATTERS ARISING**

5.1 There were no matters arising.

### **6 PROVISION OF INTERNAL AUDIT**

6.1 ACFO MacArthur presented the paper on the Provision of Internal Audit, the purpose of which was to outline to Members the requirement for a sound and effective internal audit function. The report also sought endorsement for the proposal to enter into a procurement process for the internal audit contract from 01 April 2023.

6.2

6.2? **RESOLVED to:**

- i) note the requirement to maintain adequate systems of internal control and the role of internal audit in supporting the annual statement;**
- ii) endorse the approach set out in the paper for the procurement of internal audit services utilising the Crown Commercial Services Framework for Audit and Assurance; and**
- iii) delegate the appointment of the successful supplier to a panel comprising of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Audit Committee and the Authority's Treasurer.**

### **7. AUDIT WALES ANNUAL AUDIT SUMMARY**

7.1 ACFO MacArthur presented the Audit Wales Annual Audit Summary paper which provided members with the Annual Audit Summary 2022 produced by Audit Wales.

7.2

7.2? **RESOLVED to:**

- i) note the annual audit summary.**

## **8 BUDGET UPDATE**

8.1 ACFO MacArthur presented the Budget Update paper which aimed to provide members with a financial update following the approval of the 2023/24 revenue budget at the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority meeting of the 16 January 2023.

8.2

8.2 **RESOLVED to:**

- i) note the conclusion of the pay negotiations for firefighters and the associated further cost pressures;**
- ii) consider the short-term use of reserves to address the cost pressures arising from the firefighters' pay settlement;**
- iii) note that the pay negotiations for all other staff remain outstanding at this time; and**
- iv) note that the £2.4m underlying deficit will have unavoidable implications for future service delivery and increased levy for 2024/25.**

## **9 TRAINING CENTRE**

9.1 DCFO Forshaw presented the Training Centre paper which presented an update on the work undertaken on the production of a detailed business case for a new fire and rescue training and development centre in North Wales.

9.2

9.2 **RESOLVED to:**

- i) note the background to reviewing Fire and Rescue training facilities in North Wales;**
- ii) note that the current training provision is reaching its end of life;**
- iii) note that the next stage of the project, to confirm the suitability of the identified land, has commenced;**
- iv) note the timescales set out in this report for the provision of a detailed business case for Members' consideration; and**
- v) identify Members from each constituent council to form a working group to help to develop and scrutinise plans for a new training centre.**

## **10 URGENT MATTERS**

10.1 There were no urgent matters to discuss.

Meeting closed 00:00 hrs