

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg

AWDURDOD TÂN AC ACHUB GOGLEDD CYMRU



NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

An extraordinary meeting of the NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY will be held MONDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2022 virtually via Zoom.

The meeting will start at 9.30am.

Yours faithfully

Gareth Owens
Clerk

AGENDA

1. Apologies

2. Declarations of Interest

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. Appointments to roles of Monitoring Officer and Treasurer

5. 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 2 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.

6. Appointment to role of Assistant Chief Officer (verbal update)

Report to	North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority: Extraordinary Meeting	
Date	14 February 2022	
Lead Officer	Dawn Docx, Chief Fire Officer	
Contact Officer	Helen MacArthur, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Finance and Resources)	
Subject	Appointments of Monitoring Officer/Clerk and Treasurer	

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of the report is to inform Members' about the outcome of the competitive procurement processes for the provision of Monitoring Officer/Clerk and Treasurer to North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The roles of Monitoring Officer and Treasurer are statutory roles which must be held by named individuals with the relevant knowledge, skills and experience. The roles will become vacant from 31 March 2022 and it was agreed at the December 2021 FRA meeting to undertake a competitive appointment process which has now been concluded.
3. Under the terms of the Authority's constitution, appointments to the Authority's statutory roles are not delegated matters and are reserved for the full Authority. Therefore, the appointments are subject to the approval of the full Authority.

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE PANEL/AUDIT COMMITTEE

4. The report has not previously been considered. The procurement process included formal interviews which was conducted by a panel of Members. Due to the significance of both roles on the Authority and all its Committees it was considered prudent to have the Chair and Deputy Chair of its Committee on the panel together with a representation of the Executive Panel.

RECOMMENDATION

5. That Members:
 - (i) note the completion of the competitive procurement process for the provision of a monitoring officer/clerk and treasurer for a period of four years from 1 April 2022;

- (ii) approve the appointments of Gareth Owens, Flintshire County Council as Monitoring Officer/Clerk and Dafydd Edwards as Treasurer.

BACKGROUND

6. The statutory role of Monitoring Officer was established by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 as amended by Schedule 5 of the Local Government Act 2000. The Monitoring Officer is required to provide advice and guidance to the Authority in respect of matters of law and administration.
7. The statutory role of Treasurer was established by the Local Government Act 1972. This requires that every authority makes arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and that responsibility is vested with one individual, the responsible finance officer.
8. The requirement to appoint to these statutory roles is recognised within the Authority's Constitution and Article 7 includes the designated roles of Monitoring Officer and Treasurer. Given the statutory nature of these roles there is a requirement for them to be held by named officers.

INFORMATION

9. The roles of Monitoring Officer and Treasurer require specific knowledge of local authority arrangements including constitutional matters, governance, statutes, regulations and relevant codes. The appointment process should allow for full consideration of these technical aspects when awarding the contracts.
10. In accordance with the Authority's Constitution requirement to adhere to public sector principles of openness and transparency, these roles were advertised externally. A formal appointment process for each role was undertaken to ensure transparency, fairness and value for money.
11. In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, the appointments were overseen by an appointment committee.
12. Due to the significance of both roles in dealing with the Authority and all its Committees, it was agreed at the Executive Panel meeting in July 2021 to invite the Chair and Deputy Chair of Audit Committee to accompany members of the Executive Panel on the appointments committee. Therefore the appointments committee comprised of Councillors P R Lewis, D Rees, M LI Davies, B Apsley and W O Thomas.

IMPLICATIONS

Well-being Objectives	Robust governance arrangements are a key factor in ensuring that the Authority functions in accordance with its well-being objectives.
Budget	These are statutory roles for which budget provision has been made.
Legal	The appointment of a Monitoring Officer and a Treasurer is a statutory requirement.
Staffing	No impact identified.
Equalities/Human Rights/Welsh Language	The appointment process gave due consideration to compliance with these aspects.
Risks	Failure to appoint would result in the Authority not discharging its statutory responsibility and expose it to legal challenge and reputational risk.