

NORTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

FIRE AUTHORITY REPORT

DATE:	15 th December 2003
REPORT BY:	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	To inform Members of matters relating to Best Value

1. **INFORMATION**

1.1 Best Value Framework for the Fire Service

As part of the Government's proposals to establish a Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) framework for the Fire Service, the Audit Commission has formed two audit teams who will conduct pilot CPAs of two brigades each (the latter having volunteered for this process). The outcomes of these pilots will be used to tailor the CPA system which will then be trialled again in the Spring before being formally adopted.

It is proposed that the Audit Commission in Wales (who are being kept fully informed of the above details) may make use of the outcomes from these trials into a Wales Programme for Improvement (WPI) format to be used for the three Welsh Services.

1.2 Best Value Reviews

The Fire Service Circular 4/2002 required all fire authorities in England and Wales to undertake a Best Value review of training during 2004/05. The review was postponed, from its original timetable requiring completion by 31 March 2003, in recognition of developments on implementation of the Integrated Personal Development System (IPDS).

This approach has been revised, reflecting Government policy set out in the Fire and Rescue Service White Paper "Our Fire and Rescue Service", and a training review which was designed and scoped prior to publication of the White Paper has been reconsidered

The statutory guidance requiring Authorities to undertake this review will be withdrawn. Nevertheless delivery of training remains a high priority and the strategy to provide quality and efficiency of training will be developed in tandem with the implementation of IPDS.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

That Members note the above.

