

**NORTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**

**FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY REPORT**

DATE:	19 <sup>th</sup> September 2005
REPORT BY:	<b>ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE OFFICER (SERVICE DELIVERY)</b>
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	To submit to Members a draft policy on the Service's Corporate Risk Management strategy.

1. **INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 At the Authority's meeting of the 20th June 2005 Members received a presentation from the Wales Audit Office on key messages emanating from the 2004/2005 Audit Plan.
- 1.2 The presentation identified that a draft strategy on risk management had been developed and was in place, but needed to be adopted as a strategic document.

2. **BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Risk management is the process of identifying significant risks to the achievement of an Authority's strategic and operational objectives. This is done by evaluating their potential consequences and determining and implementing the most effective way of controlling and monitoring them.
- 2.2 In their audit of 2002 Audit Commission Wales (now known as the Wales Audit Office) identified, in common with many other fire, police and local authorities, that North Wales Fire Authority did not have a comprehensive risk management strategy in place.
- 2.3 The audit report made five recommendations which included giving a senior officer specific responsibility for risk management issues, establishing a written policy and strategy, raising the profile of risk management issues amongst staff and developing arrangements for controlling and monitoring risks.

3. **CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY**

- 3.1 The draft Corporate Risk Management policy attached to this report has been developed in consultation with auditors from the local Wales Audit Office.

3. **CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY** *(continued)*

- 3.2 The draft policy reinforces the commitment shown by the Authority to a risk management culture and is currently being consulted on with the representative bodies.
- 3.3 The draft Corporate Risk Management policy encompasses the recommendations of the audit plan.

4. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 Members note the contents of the report and endorse the policy.