



AGENDA ITEM: 7

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

20th October 2008

APPROVAL OF THE AUTHORITY'S DRAFT RISK REDUCTION PLAN ACTION PLAN 2009-10

**Report by Dawn Docx
Assistant Chief Officer (Resources)**

Purpose of Report

- 1.** To inform Members of responses received to the consultation on the Authority's draft Risk Reduction Plan (RRP) Action Plan 2009-10; to set out the agreed wording of the Authority in response to the issues raised; and to present the recommendations of the Executive Panel in relation to the Action Plan to the full Fire and Rescue Authority.

Introduction

- 2.** Members approved the Authority's draft RRP Action Plan 2009-10 for consultation at its meeting in June 2008.
- 3.** In accordance with guidance issued by the Welsh Assembly Government, 12-weeks were allowed for consultation. Responses were received up to and including the closing date of 5th September 2008.

Information

- 4.** 500 copies of the consultation document were distributed, and an electronic version was made available on the Authority's website.

- 5.** Messages were issued to staff through internal communications to encourage participation, and briefings were provided for both staff and their representatives.
- 6.** 13 written responses were received in total: 1 from a fire and rescue authority member, 2 from unions representing operational staff, 1 from a county council officer, 6 from full-time operational staff (2 based in Wrexham, 4 based in Caernarfon, 1 based in Conwy, 1 based in Denbighshire) and 1 from an external e-mail address.
- 7.** All responses have been analysed. A summary of the comments received are presented in the attachment, with a draft response from the Authority.
- 8.** As in previous years, a number of responses received this year reflected one of two standpoints – either that too little detail was known for the Authority to know with certainty how to proceed with its proposals, or that too much detail had already been worked out for the Authority to genuinely take account of responses to the consultation process.
- 9.** There was some support in principle for making changes in one area of service in order to invest in another, for reviewing officer cover and for undertaking a fundamental review of risk, and a wish to make progress with some issues that have already been discussed for a number of years.
- 10.** Whilst some responses raised concerns and questions about aspects of the proposals and sought reassurances about their concerns, others sought to suspend progressing the proposals until all the details had been worked out in advance of implementation.
- 11.** A number of responses questioned whether two of the four proposals (catering arrangements and setting up a working group to review risk) were at a sufficiently high strategic level to merit inclusion in the consultation, and some were dismayed at the quality of the consultation document itself.

Recommendations

12. That Members:

- 12.1 note the report summarising the response to the consultation on the draft Risk Reduction Plan Annual Action Plan 2009-10;
- 12.2 endorse the draft responses to comments received, as presented in Appendix 1.
- 12.3 Approve the recommendations of the Executive Panel, as set out below:

To progress the Officer Cover Review in order to provide resources for an operational assurance team and community safety work.

To progress the review of crewing of Aerial Ladder Platforms (ALPs) and when the opportunity arises to transfer the funding of the dedicated posts to fund more community safety practitioners on the most appropriate terms and conditions to meet the Authority's objectives.

It was agreed that the catering arrangements were a management issue and that this proposal should be deleted from the RRP Action Plan.

To undertake a fundamental review into Risk across North Wales in order to produce the full Risk Reduction Plan in 2009/10