



AGENDA ITEM: 10

**NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
EXECUTIVE PANEL**

21st September 2009

Update on the public consultation and links to the Improvement plan and Risk Reduction action plan

**Report by Dawn Docx
Deputy Chief Fire Officer**

Purpose of Report

- 1 To update members of the Fire and Rescue Authority on progress of the public consultation exercise over the summer months, and its extension to the end of September.
- 2 To explain when the findings of the consultation will be presented and how it is proposed that the Improvement plan and Risk Reduction action plan for 2010/11 will be developed.

Background

- 3 Members are aware that the Fire and Rescue Authority has a statutory duty to produce either a full Risk Reduction Plan (RRP) or RRP action plan annually and to consult with the public for a 12 week period over the summer.
- 4 This year the decision was made to use the RRP process to consult on a number of key strategic issues which could pose the risk of preventing the Service achieving its main objectives. These objectives are articulated in the vision "To make North Wales a safer place to live, work and visit."
- 5 In line with Welsh Assembly Government guidance the draft consultation document was approved by the authority and issued on the 15th June 2009. It received some good local press interest

which has helped to increase the number of responses from members of the public who are unconnected with North Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

- 6 The difficulty with consulting over July and August is that there are few opportunities to publicise the document as people are on holiday and public meetings are not held. Because we wanted to receive as many opinions as possible we have discussed with the Welsh Assembly Government and Wales Audit Office the proposal to extend the consultation to the end of September 2009. They have no objections to this proposal.
- 7 It is therefore intended that we should continue to publicise the consultation by means of local meetings such as neighbourhood watch and community police meetings. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer has presented the document to the senior management teams of Flintshire, Conwy and Denbighshire and Conwy scrutiny committee and dates are being sought with the other three Councils in North Wales.
- 8 It is recommended that the outcomes of this consultation exercise should be presented to the next meeting of the reconvened RRP working group for them to make recommendations to the Executive Panel regarding the four strategic issues.
- 9 In the meantime, the Improvement plan is being drafted and will be presented for approval at the next Fire and Rescue Authority meeting. It will incorporate those issues highlighted in the Joint Risk Assessment and will contain the RRP action plan for 2010-11. This action plan will be based upon proposals already approved after consultation but not yet implemented.

Recommendations

- 10 That Members:
 - (i) note the extension of the consultation process;
 - (ii) approve the proposal to refer the results of the consultation to the reconvened RRP working group;
 - (iii) nominate members to the reconvened RRP working group.