



AGENDA ITEM: 8

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

15th March 2010

Service Inspection by the Health and Safety Executive

Report by Paul Claydon, Assistant Chief Fire Officer

Purpose of Report

- 1 To provide Members with information in relation to the findings of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) following the inspection of North Wales Fire and Rescue Service. This report is supplemented by a copy of the HSE's Inspection Report (Appendix 1) and covering letter to the Chief Fire Officer (Appendix 2).

Introduction

- 2 In March 2009 the Service was notified of the HSE's intention to carry out an inspection of North Wales Fire and Rescue Service as part of a sample of eight Fire and Rescue Services across the UK. The inspection to take place in December 2009.
- 3 The purpose of the inspections was to allow the HSE to make judgements on the effectiveness of health and safety management systems and to influence dutyholders to review and improve those systems.
- 4 The inspections utilised the framework of HSG 65 'Successful Health and Safety Management' with health and safety management being assessed by specific consideration of amongst others the following issues:
 - Training and competence in core firefighter skills including Breathing Apparatus and associated procedures; compartment fire behaviour training.

- Competence for incident command.
- Provision of risk critical information to inform operational decision making.

5 At the conclusion of these inspections each FRA is given an individual inspection report (Appendix 1). At the end of the inspection programme a consolidated, anonymised report will be prepared by the HSE and shared with all FRSs and other stakeholders.

The Inspection Report

- 6 The HSE Report is generally very positive in relation to the policies, procedures and processes the Service has put in place both in general and in relation to the specifics mentioned in paragraph 4.
- 7 There are four recommendations which can be found in full on page 13 of the inspection report.

Next Steps

- 8 Officers will be developing an action plan to meet the recommendations and this will include the other areas the HSE has suggested the Service may wish to examine further.
- 9 Once produced the action plan will be reviewed with the HSE to determine appropriate timescales (Appendix 2).
- 10 A Welsh language copy of the report will be forwarded to Members in due course and once received the report will be published on the Service's website.

Recommendations

- 11 That Members note the information contained within the HSE report.
- 12 That Members receive an update on progress with the action plan once agreed with the HSE.