



AGENDA ITEM: 8

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

21st June 2010

2010 Consultation on Combined Improvement Plan (IP) and Risk Reduction Plan (RRP)

Report by Dawn Docx, Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Purpose of Report

- 1 To present for Members' approval the draft combined 2009-12 IP and RRP as work in progress and the draft text of the associated public consultation document.

Background

- 2 Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) are required to prepare, publicly consult on, and publish annually an RRP/annual action plan by 31 October in the year before the year to which it relates. This is in accordance with the Welsh Assembly Government's current Fire and Rescue National Framework.
- 3 FRAs are required to prepare, publicly consult on and publish annually an Improvement Plan as soon as reasonably practicable after 30 September in the year before the year to which it relates. This is in accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and the Fire and Rescue Authorities (Improvement Plans) (Wales) Order 2010.
- 4 FRAs are also required to publish performance information relating to each financial year by 31 October in the year after the year to which the information relates. This is in accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.
- 5 Guidance from the Welsh Assembly Government notes that the timings of these publications suggest the convenience of producing one plan containing a report of the previous financial year, a

summary of agreed objectives in the current year, and the improvement plan and any additional RRP objectives for the following financial year.

Introduction

- 6 A draft combined IP and RRP has been prepared covering the period of 2009-2012. This incorporates unaudited provisional data for 2008-09 where this is available, and risk reduction objectives for April 2011 onwards, as previously reported to Members at the meeting of 15 March 2010. This document is attached as work in progress at Appendix 1.
- 7 The text of a draft consultation document incorporating improvement and risk reduction objectives for 2011-12 and a set of proposed questions has also been prepared. A first draft of this document was considered at the Executive Panel meeting in May 2010, and suggested amendments have now been incorporated into a second draft which is attached at Appendix 2.

Information

- 8 The agreed contents of the consultation document will be used as the basis of an attractive and accessible document for wide distribution to the public and members of staff.
- 9 The combined IP/RRP document will not be published in paper format until after final approval by the Authority in October 2010, but it is proposed that this should be placed as a work in progress on the Authority's website for reference, with amendments and additions being made throughout the consultation period following audit and as further information becomes available.
- 10 An audit by KPMG of the performance figures contained in the draft plan has been scheduled for mid July.
- 11 After the close of the consultation period, the Executive Panel will be asked to consider the responses and to agree a final draft of the IP/RRP for approval by the full Authority at its October meeting.

Recommendations

- 12 That Members:
- (i) approve the content of the attached consultation document for publication and distribution;
 - (ii) endorse the proposal to make the draft IP and RRP available for reference as a work in progress on the Authority's website for the duration of the 2010 consultation.