



AGENDA ITEM: 11

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE PANEL

20th September 2010

RESPONSE TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) MEASURE 2011

Report by Colin Everett, Clerk to the Authority

Purpose of Report

- 1 To note the Welsh Assembly Government's request for written evidence to assist in its scrutiny of the Local Government (Wales) Measure.

Background

- 2 The Local Government Measure will make changes intended to strengthen the structures and working of local government in Wales at all levels, and to ensure that local councils reach out to and engage with all sectors of the communities they serve.

Information

- 3 The Legislation Committee is undertaking Stage 1 scrutiny on the general principles of the proposed Measure. The Committee has called for evidence with the closing date for submissions on 1st October 2010.
- 4 The proposed Measure makes provision to:
 - (i) broaden and increase participation in local government by permitting steps which will help remove barriers and disincentives to standing for election to local councils;

- (ii) enable the review and improvement of the governance structures introduced through the Local Government Act 2000 so that they better suit the circumstances of local government in Wales;
- (iii) enhance the role of non-executive ("backbench") local authority councillors in the scrutiny of local services;
- (iv) develop and strengthen the role of community councils in Wales, including enabling them to deliver a wider range of services and actions locally as well as to increase the effectiveness of their representational role and their ability to work in partnership with other bodies;
- (v) reform the system for setting allowances for councillors;
- (vi) allow the Welsh Ministers to issue statutory guidance on collaboration between local authorities, and between them and other bodies.

Recommendation

- 5 That Members agree to delegate responsibility to the Clerk to the Authority to submit a response on behalf of the Fire and Rescue Authority. A copy of the response will be circulated to Members.