



AGENDA ITEM: 10

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

9th May 2011

**CONTENT AND CONSULTATION OF THE COMBINED
IMPROVEMENT AND RISK REDUCTION PLAN 2012-13**

Report by Dawn Docx, Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Purpose of Report

- 1 To present for Members' approval proposals for the content of the Combined Improvement and Risk Reduction Plan (RRP) 2012-13 and for this year's consultation arrangements.

Background

- 2 Part 1 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 ('the measure') requires Welsh Improvement Authorities to set themselves improvement objectives upon which they have consulted.
- 3 The Fire and Rescue Authorities (Improvement Plans) (Wales) Order 2010 requires Welsh improvement authorities to publish their improvement plan as soon as reasonably practicable after 30 September of the year prior to the financial year to which it relates. To tie in with the RRP publication timetable, this has been interpreted in practice as 31 October each year.
- 4 Although FRAs are required to set improvement objectives every year, that does not mean that the objectives have to change every year or be deliverable within one year.
- 5 Section 5 of the measure requires authorities, in deciding how to improve, to consult with representatives of residents, non-domestic rates payers, service users and those with an interest in the area.

- 6 The measure itself does not specify the frequency, duration or timing of consultations, but the issued fire and rescue authority guidance for complying with the measure does assume that non-statutory requirements in the RRP guidance (to consult on RRP and resultant action plans for a minimum of 12 weeks) will be met.

Introduction

- 7 The Authority's combined Improvement and Risk Reduction Plan published in October 2010 contained seven improvement objectives. These are shown in Appendix 1.
- 8 Twenty-one actions arose from those seven objectives, several of which will take more than one year to achieve.

Information

Proposed content of the 2012-13 Combined Plan

- 9 In view of:
- the broad scope of the existing objectives already in the 2011-12 Combined Improvement and Risk Reduction Plan;
 - the need to allow time to consolidate existing objectives at a time of increasing pressure from reducing budgets;
 - the unexpectedly tight timescales for publishing this year's plan by the end of October 2011 rather than the end of March 2012; and
 - the Assembly's decision to defer the production of a new Fire and Rescue National Framework, leaving the existing 2008-11 Framework in place for the time being;

it is proposed that the Authority should consider carrying forward the same seven objectives for another year to 2011-12, but with updated action plans.

Draft consultation document

- 10 Given the relatively few changes being proposed, and bearing in mind cost and environmental aspects of publication, there is a strong case to be made this year for not producing the usual colourful multi-page consultation document.

- 11 Instead, a simple bilingual three-fold sheet containing a brief summary of the seven objectives and other general information would be produced and distributed throughout North Wales. (Examples will be available to view during the meeting.)
- 12 Additional information will be available on the website, and anyone wishing to comment on the proposals would be invited to do so by mail, e-mail or via the website.

Recommendations

- 13 That Members:
 - (i) approve the proposed content of the draft combined Improvement and Risk Reduction Plan 2012-13; and
 - (ii) endorse the proposal to conduct a limited consultation process.

APPENDIX 1

<u>2011-12 IMPROVEMENT/RISK REDUCTION PLAN OBJECTIVES AND ACTION PLANS</u>	
OBJ 1	To help to keep people and communities safe by preventing deaths and injuries from accidental fires in living accommodation.
1.1	Delivery of Community Safety/Risk Reduction Strategy (incl. provision of Community Safety advice, targeted and tailored delivery of HFSCs, and provision of free equipment according to assessed need).
1.2	Peer Assessment of the Community Safety Strategy.
1.3	Continuous monitoring of the incidence of dwelling fires.
1.4	Involvement of partner organisations in learning lessons from dwelling fires to reduce the likelihood of recurrence.
1.5	Use of information to predict and prevent dwelling fires.
1.6	Development of a local attendance standard to support fast and accurate response to dwelling fires.
1.7	Improving availability of RDS fire stations through more efficient management of recruitment processes.
OBJ 2	To help minimise the risk of fires starting accidentally in non-domestic properties, so that normal activities can continue and the lives of people visiting and working there are not put at risk.
2.1	Continued development of targeted programme of inspections of fire safety arrangements in non-domestic properties using local intelligence and information held on RMS.
2.2	Fast and accurate response to fires in non-domestic premises by fire crews equipped with information on MDTs linked to centrally held hazard records and other intelligence.
OBJ 3	To help to minimise the danger and damage caused by non-fire emergencies, such as flooding, road traffic collisions, and chemical incidents.
3.1	Continued interagency working (e.g. with Environment Agency) and active participation in the LRF.
3.2	Continued participation in schemes designed to increase road safety, such as Pass Plus Wales, the Motor Education Scheme and Impact Roadshows.
3.3	Development of a method of profiling RTC incidents in North Wales to support and enhance the strategy for mitigating their effects.
3.4	Development of, and baseline measurement against, local performance indicators to support improvement in this area.

3.5	Continued increase in accurate records of hazardous materials held on premises.
OBJ 4	To help to tackle problems of deliberate fire setting so that people, communities, businesses, the environment and the area's heritage are not put at risk.
4.1	Collaboration with North Wales Police and other public and voluntary agencies to prevent arson and acts of vandalism by fire.
4.2	Working closely with particular groups and individuals (e.g. through the Phoenix and FACE schemes) to influence behaviour away from deliberate fire-setting.
OBJ 5	To focus on improving the sustainable development of the Authority by finding the right balance between the environmental, economic and social impact of providing a fire and rescue service.
5.1	Roll-out of Sustainable Development Action Plan.
OBJ 6	To become better at identifying and engaging with people who could find themselves socially and/or economically disadvantaged, so that we can enhance their sense of wellbeing and reduce the level of risk to their personal safety.
6.1	Drawing together a range of population-based information from reliable sources to support efficient and effective targeting of safety advice.
6.2	Development of a Single Equality Scheme that helps to protect people from being disadvantaged unfairly on account of their age, disability, gender, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy, race, religion or belief, or sexual orientation.
OBJ 7	To ensure that the Service's Business Continuity Planning and Management arrangements are as comprehensive and secure as they can be.
7.1	Reappraisal of Business Continuity Planning resources and responsibilities to promote renewed emphasis on progressing with existing plans and continuously developing new ones.
7.2	Giving equal importance to corporate and operational business continuity management to ensure that no area has been overlooked and that recovery plans are robust.