



AGENDA ITEM: 8

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE PANEL

21st May 2007

PROGRESS ON THE WALES PROGRAMME FOR IMPROVEMENT FOR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITIES IN WALES IN 2007-08

**Report by Dawn Docx,
Assistant Chief Officer (Finance and Procurement)**

Purpose of Report

- 1.** To inform Members of progress in introducing the Wales Programme for Improvement for Fire and Rescue Authorities in Wales in 2006-07, including the requirements for performance reporting.

Background

- 2.** The Fire and Rescue National Framework issued in April 2005 confirmed that Fire and Rescue Authorities in Wales would be subject to the Wales Programme for Improvement (WPI-FRA).
- 3.** Development and implementation of the WPI-FRA guidance, including a suite of national strategic indicators and core indicator sets, was deferred by the Assembly whilst revisions were made to the equivalent items for Local Authorities.



Introduction

- 4.** Two letters were received from the Welsh Assembly Government in March 2007 – the first at the beginning of March enclosing the draft WPI-FRA guidance for comment by 2nd April, and the second at the end of March relating to performance indicators for 2007-08.
- 5.** Given the short time available for responding, comments relating to the draft WPI-FRA were compiled and submitted by officers on behalf of the Authority.

Information

- 6.** The proposed WPI-FRA guidance seeks to comply with the requirements of Best Value legislation (the Local Government Act 1999) as well as arranging the individual planning stages in such a way that they correspond with those required for Risk Reduction Planning.
- 7.** The letter received at the beginning of March referred to an intention to issue the final WPI-FRA guidance by circular in April.
- 8.** The proposed suite of performance indicators for 2007-08 was forwarded to the Service for information, but the consultation on them was delayed until after the National Assembly elections at the beginning of May.

Recommendations

- 9.** That Members note the progress being made by the Welsh Assembly towards introducing the WPI-FRA, including the national suite of performance indicators for fire and rescue services.