

Report to	Executive Panel
Date	11 February 2019
Lead Officer	Shân Morris, Assistant Chief Officer (Corporate Policy & Planning)
Contact Officer	Pippa Hardwick, Corporate Planning Manager
Subject	Final draft Improvement and Well-being Plan 2019-20



PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To present the final draft Improvement and Well-being Plan 2019/20 for approval by the full Authority at its next meeting on 18 March 2019.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) is required to publish improvement and well-being objectives and to have involved the public and other stakeholders in the process of developing those objectives.
3. This report presents a final draft Improvement and Well-being Plan 2019/20 (Appendix 1) for publication by 31 March 2019.

RECOMMENDATIONS

4. Members are asked to approve the final draft Improvement and Well-being Plan 2019-20 for submission to the full Authority meeting on 18 March 2019.

BACKGROUND

5. The Authority is required to publish annual improvement objectives in accordance with the Local Government Measure 2009. This must be done as soon as reasonably practicable after the 31 December before the financial year to which the objectives relate.
6. The Authority also is required to publish long-term well-being objectives in accordance with the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015. The Act does not prescribe how often the Authority must revise these objectives other than that it must review them as part of its annual process of reporting on them.

7. The Authority must also publish a statement explaining how meeting the objectives will contribute to achieving the national well-being goals and why it considers it has set well-being objectives in accordance with the sustainable development principle. This statement must set out the more immediate steps that the Authority proposes to take to meet those objectives.
8. Having adopted long-term well-being objectives, the Authority is required to take all reasonable steps (in exercising its functions) to meet those objectives.
9. In accordance with issued advice the Authority amalgamated its improvement planning and well-being planning processes and in 2017/18 it set itself two long-term objectives which it retained into 2018/19. These are:
 - A: To support people to prevent accidental dwelling fires and stay safe if they do occur; and
 - B: To facilitate high quality, responsive and better integrated fire and rescue services so that prevention activity and emergency response continue to be available when and where required, affordably, equitably and on the basis of risk.

INFORMATION

10. In December 2017 the Authority agreed that a Planning Working Group comprising the members of the Executive Panel would undertake the detailed work associated with developing the FRA's plan for 2019/20.
11. Following a series of Members' Planning Working Group meetings in 2018, the FRA decided to consult publicly on funding of fire and rescue services in 2019/20.
12. Having carefully considered the alternatives for ensuring a balanced budget in the year 2019/20, the Authority indicated that it was not minded to pursue large scale savings because it judged that the level of risk would be too high at this time. It had not ruled out making savings, but the scale of those savings in 2019/20 would stop short of, for example, closing fire stations or making firefighters redundant.
13. The public consultation on these approaches ran from September 2018 to November 2018 and the key themes of the responses were considered by the Authority at its meeting on 17 December 2018.

14. On the basis of the response to the public consultation, and notwithstanding any decision by the Authority regarding its revenue and capital budgets for 2019/20, the Authority agreed to continue to pursue its two existing long-term well-being objectives.
15. The attached final draft Improvement and Well-being Plan 2019-20 therefore incorporates these two objectives along with the shorter term steps towards achieving them. This plan may be subject to minor changes by officers, should they be necessary, prior to publication on the Authority's website.
16. The Authority is able, therefore, to publish, for the forthcoming financial year, a set of objectives that serve as both annual improvement objectives and as the steps the Authority proposes to take in that year towards meeting its long term well-being objectives.

IMPLICATIONS

Well-being Objectives	Direct implication for agreeing the steps towards the Authority's long-term well-being objectives.
Budget	There is a clear relationship between the Authority's plans for 2019/20 and the level of financial resources available.
Legal	Supports compliance with improvement planning and well-being legislation.
Staffing	No known impact on staffing levels at this time.
Equalities/Human Rights/Welsh Language	The impact of specific actions on these aspects will be assessed at the appropriate point in their development.
Risks	Reduces the risks of legal non-compliance and of failing to budget and plan appropriately.