



AGENDA ITEM: 7

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

19th SEPTEMBER 2011

**CONTENTS OF THE COMBINED IMPROVEMENT PLAN (IP)
AND RISK REDUCTION PLAN (RRP) 2010/11 to 2012/13**

**Report by Dawn Docx
Deputy Chief Fire Officer**

Purpose of Report

- 1.** To seek members' endorsement of a proposed structure for the draft Combined Improvement and Risk Reduction Plan 2010-13 that will be presented for approval to the full Fire Authority meeting on 17th October 2011; and to draw members' attention to the need to agree the wording of the decision(s) of that meeting for inclusion in the Combined Plan.

Background

- 2.** Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) are required to publish annually:
 - a) an RRP/annual action plan by 31 October in the year before the year to which it relates;
 - b) an Improvement Plan as soon as is reasonably practicable after 30 September in the year before the year to which it relates; and
 - c) performance information by 31 October in the year after the year to which it relates.
- 3.** Guidance from the Welsh 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 financial year, and the improvement plan and any additional RRP objectives for the



following financial year.

Introduction

4. The Authority published a Combined Improvement and Risk Reduction Plan 2009-12 in October 2010.

5. This combined plan comprised six sections:

Section 1 - General Information

Section 2 - Performance, collaboration and external opinions (e.g. from the Wales Audit Office) in 2009-10

Section 3 - A summary of the 2010-11 Service Plans and the public consultation completed in 2008 and 2009.

Section 4 - An account of the public consultation completed in 2010 and a detailed breakdown of the seven Improvement Objectives that the Authority had at that time set itself for 2011-12, with an explanation of the reasons why each one was set and the expected outcomes. Planned actions were also listed and a summary of the criteria by which success would be measured.

Section 5 - Other information (e.g. contact details and intervention arrangements).

Section 6 - Tables of performance information in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10, past consultation and publication dates and details of how to contribute to future improvement objectives

6. The subsequent audit process did not raise any compliance issues.

Information

7. A draft Combined Improvement and Risk Reduction Plan 2010-13 is now being prepared for approval by the full Fire Authority at its meeting on 17th October 2011.



8. Subject to the Executive Panel's endorsement, it is proposed that the Combined Improvement and Risk Reduction Plan 2010-13 be compiled along the same lines as the 2009-12 Combined Plan, but with the information within it rolled forward one year.
9. The Combined Plan will be placed on the Authority's website by the statutory publication deadline of 31 October 2011, and a summary of its contents published for more general circulation.
10. The Wales Audit Office is expected to complete its audit of the Plan and its contents during November/December 2011 and publish the findings in the next Annual Improvement Report in January 2012.
11. Because of the timing of decisions, the Authority's strategy for making savings in 2012-13 will need to be written in to Section 4 of the Combined Plan after the full Fire Authority meeting on the 17th October 2011 but before the statutory publication deadline of 31st October 2011.
12. Members will therefore wish to consider what arrangements they propose to adopt for approving the wording of this section of the Combined Plan.

Recommendations

13. The Executive Panel is asked to:
 - (i) endorse the intention to maintain the same structure for the Combined Improvement and Risk Reduction Plan 2010-13 as the previous year's Combined Plan, but with updated information;
 - (ii) note the need to include in the Combined Plan a summary of the full Fire Authority's decision(s) regarding the 2012/13 budget options; and
 - (iii) agree the arrangements it proposes to adopt for approving the wording of this section of the Combined Plan after the Authority meeting on 17th October 2011 and before the statutory deadline of 31st October 2011.

