



AGENDA ITEM: 6

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE PANEL

15th July 2013

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Report by Dawn Docx, Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Purpose of Report

- 1 To bring to the Executive Panel the Authority's Annual Governance Statement for comment, prior to it being presented to the Authority.

Background

- 2 From 2010/11 all Local Government Authorities have been required to prepare an Annual Governance Statement which is to be published as part of the Statutory Accounts. This replaces the Statement of Internal Control (SIC) in the Statement of Accounts.

Information

- 3 The purpose of the Annual Governance Statement is to report publicly, on an annual basis, the extent to which an Authority complies with its own Code of Corporate Governance. It includes an explanation as to how the Authority has monitored the effectiveness of its governance arrangements in that year and on any planned changes in the coming period.

- 4 The North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority's Annual Governance Statement is produced by the Finance Manager under the direction of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and the Clerk. This year it also took into account feedback from the Wales Audit Office.
- 5 The recent WAO review recommended that the Authority should ensure there was an opportunity for debate and challenge of the Annual Governance Statement prior to its publication within the Statement of Accounts in September.
- 6 The Authority's Code of Corporate Governance, approved in 2011, is the framework against which the Finance Manager has checked compliance and the findings are summarised in the attached Annual Governance Statement.

Recommendation

- 7 Members are requested to approve the content of the Annual Governance Statement for 2012/13.