



## **AGENDA ITEM: 10**

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

**16<sup>th</sup> July 2012**

#### **2012-13 IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES**

**Report by Shân Morris, Corporate Planning Manager**

#### **Purpose of Report**

- 1 To recommend that members take the opportunity to restate the Authority's published Improvement Objectives for the current year (2012-13).

#### **Introduction**

- 2 In accordance with the Local Government Measure 2009, the Authority published a set of improvement objectives for 2011-12 in October 2010.
- 3 Further objectives were added later as a direct consequence of the Authority's decision in December 2010 to freeze the annual budget at £32 million from 2011-12 until 2013-14.
- 4 In May 2011, in view of:
  - a) the broad scope of the existing objectives;
  - b) the need to allow time to consolidate existing objectives;
  - c) the Welsh Government's unexpectedly tight timescales for publishing the 2012-13 improvement plan and its decision at the time to defer the production of a new Fire and Rescue National Framework;the Authority resolved to carry forward the same objectives to 2012-13 as it had already adopted for 2011-12. These were published in October 2011, and are attached for reference at Appendix 1.

## **Information**

- 5 The Authority now has an opportunity to restate its 2012-13 objectives. There are a number of benefits to doing so, including:
  - a) presenting a clearer message about the Authority's highest priority areas;
  - b) providing a better focused set of objectives from the point of view of monitoring and reporting.
- 6 The remainder of the existing objectives would not be lost. They would continue to be incorporated within departmental action plans to be achieved as planned, thereby meeting the Authority's general duty to improve.
- 7 The objectives themselves would continue to be outcome-focused, with measurement criteria (indicators of successful delivery) clearly set out.
- 8 Wales Audit Office's response to the possibility of adopting this approach has been positive.
- 9 It is proposed that the existing eight improvement objectives could be reduced to just two – these, together with the indicators, are shown at Appendix 2.

## **Recommendation**

- 10 That members:
  - a) approve the proposal to restate the Authority's existing eight improvement objectives, and
  - b) agree the restated objectives for the current year (2012-13).

## APPENDIX 1

<b><u>2012-13 Improvement Objectives (existing)</u></b>	
<b>OBJ 1</b>	To help to keep people and communities safe by preventing deaths and injuries from accidental fires in living accommodation.
<b>OBJ 2</b>	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.
<b>OBJ 3</b>	To help to minimise the danger and damage caused by non-fire emergencies, such as flooding, road traffic collisions, and chemical incidents.
<b>OBJ 4</b>	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.
<b>OBJ 5</b>	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.
<b>OBJ 6</b>	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.
<b>OBJ 7</b>	To ensure that the Service's Business Continuity Planning and Management arrangements are as comprehensive and secure as they can be.
<b>OBJ 8</b>	To find ways of reducing the overall cost of running the Service each year in order to operate with an annual budget of £32 million until 2013-14.

## APPENDIX 2

	<b><u>Re-stated 2012-13 Improvement Objectives (proposed)</u></b>
<b>OBJ 1(r)</b>	To help to keep people and communities safe by preventing deaths and injuries from accidental fires in living accommodation.
	<b><u>Key Indicators of Successful Delivery:</u></b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A reduction in the number of deaths and injuries arising from accidental dwelling fires.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An increase in the percentage of people who escaped unharmed and unaided from accidental dwelling fires.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A reduction in the percentage of dwelling fires where no smoke alarm was present.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An increase in the percentage of Home Fire Safety Checks that were undertaken following a referral from a partner organisation.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A reduction in the non-availability of RDS stations because of insufficient crewing level.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development of, and a baseline measurement against, a local attendance standard.</li> </ul>
<b>OBJ 2(r)</b>	To find ways of reducing the overall cost of running the Service each year in order to operate with an annual budget of £32 million until 2013-14.