



AGENDA ITEM: 12

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

22nd September 2008

**Fire and Rescue National Framework for Wales
2008- 2011**

**Report by Dawn Docx
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Purpose of Report

- 1.** To inform Members that the National Framework for the Fire and Rescue Service in Wales has now been published by the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG).

Background

- 2.** At the first meeting of the Fire and Rescue Authority, held on the 16th June 2008, Members endorsed the Authority's response to the draft National Framework document. This was subsequently sent to the Welsh Assembly Government as part of formal consultation process. It is pleasing to note that a number of queries and suggestions made by North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, in its response, have been acted upon.
- 3.** Of particular concern were the proposed changes to existing governance arrangements between the three Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) and WAG. In the published document this has now been clarified, maintaining the regular meetings between the appropriate Welsh Minister with FRA Chairs, Chief Fire Officers and the Welsh Local Government Association. The Framework also clarifies the roles of the Fire and Rescue



Consultative Forum and the independent Fire and Rescue Adviser.

WAG have also revised the amount of discussion required with each FRA concerning their Risk Reduction Plan (RRP) proposals.

- 4.** It is also pleasing to see further clarity about FRAs involvement in partnerships and Local Service Boards (LSBs). " FRAs should be involved in the work of the LSBs on a flexible basis, depending on the areas identified in local partnership action."
- 5.** In the published Framework there are now references to business continuity and the need for WAG to consider how to proceed in light of the Pitt Review into the floods in England in 2007. Also, recognising the contribution of the many firefighters employed on the Retained Duty System (RDS), WAG have declared that they will undertake a "root and branch review into the operation of the RDS system in Wales"

6. Recommendations

That Members note the publication of the Fire and Rescue National Framework for Wales 2008- 2011 and those revisions to the draft document as outlined above.

