



AGENDA ITEM: 5

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE PANEL

24th September 2007

RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION ON THE AUTHORITY'S DRAFT RISK REDUCTION ACTION PLAN 2008-09

**Report by Dawn Docx
Assistant Chief Officer (Finance and Procurement)**

Purpose of Report

- 1.** To inform Members of responses received to the consultation on the Authority's draft RRP Action Plan for 2008-09; to seek a recommendation to the full Fire Authority in relation to the Action Plan; and to agree the proposed wording of the Authority's response to the issues raised.

Introduction

- 2.** Members approved the Authority's draft Risk Reduction Action Plan 2008-09 for consultation on June 18th 2007.
- 3.** In accordance with guidance issued by the Welsh Assembly Government, a comprehensive 12 week consultation process was undertaken, and responses were received up to and including the closing date of 7th September 2007.



Information

- 4.** A full colour printed consultation document was sent to 918 external individuals and organisations at the end of June/beginning of July, in 34 different categories of consultees. An additional 69 copies were distributed during the National Eisteddfod, the Anglesey Show, the Meirionnydd Show and the Denbigh and Flint Show.
- 5.** Covering letters to Assembly Members, Members of Parliament and Members of the European Parliament were worded to include an open invitation to discuss proposals in more detail should they so wish.
- 6.** 450 copies were distributed to staff in all Service premises, as well as to those currently on secondment, long term sickness, maternity or other leave. Messages were issued to staff through internal communications to inform them of the consultation and to encourage participation.
- 7.** A programme of personal visits to all watches in the three 24 hour shift fire stations and in the five day crewing fire stations was delivered by the Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Service Delivery), to give an opportunity for personnel to discuss the proposals, and to encourage them to submit their written responses. The normal programme of station visits by Principal Officers also continued during this period.
- 8.** Staff and staff representatives were given presentations by an external company and Principal Officers on how a new rostering system might be configured, and how this type of reconfiguration can release resources.



Information *(continued)*

- 9.** An electronic version was available on the Authority's website from 19th June 2007 onwards.
- 10.** 62 written responses were received in total, 52 of which arrived in the last week of the consultation. No responses were received from Control or Support Staff, but around 61% of all the responses came from staff. The fact that some electronic responses did not reveal full details of the person responding means that an accurate analysis is not possible. As in previous years, the Fire Brigades Union submitted its written response.
- 11.** This level of response compares with 34 responses to the first consultation on the IRMP/Action Plan in October 2003, 3 to the second in 2004, 36 to the third in 2005 and 16 to the fourth in 2006.
- 12.** All responses have been read and analysed, and a selection of either single comments or ones that are representative of a number of very similar comments that were submitted are presented in the Appendix, with a draft response to the issues raised from the Authority.
- 13.** In contrast to last year, the majority of responses received this year were not supportive of the proposals in the form in which they were presented in the consultation document. Many were disappointed that detailed costings and fully developed implementation plans had not already been completed and included at the consultation phase.



Information *(continued)*

- 14.** There were concerns from staff about how the proposals might affect their personal home and work life, and a small number offered suggestions for alternative measures. The wording was either exactly the same or very similar in a number of responses, suggesting that a degree of campaigning or sharing of responses had occurred.

Recommendations

- 15.** That Members
- 15.1** note the responses received to the consultation on the draft RRP action plan 2008-09;
 - 15.2** in light of the responses received, Members decide how they wish to proceed with the implementation of the four proposals for 2008-09, for recommendation to the full Fire Authority at its next meeting; and
 - 15.3** agree the final wording of its response to written comments submitted by consultees on the draft RRP action plan 2008-09 as presented in Appendix 1.