

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE PANEL REPORT

DATE:	26 th October 2005
REPORT BY:	PETER SLEE, (ASSISTANT CHIEF OFFICER, CORPORATE SERVICES)
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	To seek members' views on the most appropriate manner by which to commemorate the Authority's tenth anniversary.

1. **BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 North Wales Fire Authority was established on the 1st April 1996 when the provisions of the North Wales Fire Services (Combination Scheme) Order 1995 (the Order) were enacted.
- 1.2 The Order provided, on local government reorganisation in Wales, for the fire services that served the former counties of Clwyd and Gwynedd to be amalgamated and for the six new unitary authorities in North Wales to combine for the purpose of providing a "fire service". The Authority constituted under the Order was to be known as the "North Wales Fire Authority".
- 1.3 Although the Authority itself did not become fully operational until 1st April 1996, during the preceding months, a North Wales Fire Service Joint Committee and later a shadow authority had been meeting to undertake the necessary planning and groundwork required and to oversee the transition from the two authorities and services into one.

2. **INFORMATION**

- 2.1 April 2006 will mark the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the North Wales Fire Authority. The "North Wales Fire Authority" held its first meeting on 17th June 1996 at Conwy.
- 2.2 The amalgamation of both services entailed a substantial amount of hard work on the part of everyone involved in order to ensure a smooth transition from two different working practices into one. Since its establishment ten years ago the Authority has encountered numerous other changes and challenges as its and the Service's roles and responsibilities have changed, evolved and modernised.

2. **INFORMATION** *(continued)*

- 2.3 As the Authority's tenth anniversary approaches members may wish to consider whether they wish to mark this milestone in any particular way. This anniversary may be an ideal opportunity for the Authority to reflect on its achievements to date and to re-affirm its aspirations for the future.
- 2.4 The Authority's 2006 Annual Meeting is scheduled for 19th June which, within two days, coincides with the tenth anniversary of its first ever meeting. Therefore the Annual Meeting may lend itself as an appropriate occasion for the Authority's to mark its tenth anniversary.
- 2.5 One possible option for marking this anniversary would be to hold a special lunch for past and present members and Principal Officers immediately following the meeting on 19th June 2006. Alternatively, or in addition, members may wish to commemorate the anniversary by other methods such as by commissioning a commemorative gift.

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 Commemorating its tenth anniversary will entail financial implications for the Authority. The extent of these budgetary implications will be dependent on how members decide to commemorate the event.

4. **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Panel considers whether it wishes:

- 4.1 the Authority to commemorate the tenth anniversary of its establishment, and if so;
- 4.2 the manner by which it wishes to commemorate the anniversary.