



AGENDA ITEM: 19

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

21 March 2016

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY'S TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Report by Simon Smith, Chief Fire Officer

Purpose of Report

- 1 To notify Members that the Authority will be commemorating its twentieth anniversary at the June 2016 annual Authority meeting.

Background

- 2 The 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. 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". 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.

- 3 Following the commencement of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 in Wales, to change the name of the Service from Fire Service to Fire and Rescue Service, similar measures were not put in place to amend the 'North Wales Fire Services (Combination Scheme) Order 1995' to reflect the name change from the Authority's point. No other provisions have been made since to enable this change of name to be legally recognised. Therefore, albeit that the Authority tends to call itself the 'North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority' for official/legal purposes the Authority's correct name is 'North Wales Fire Authority'. Consequently all legal documentation has to bear this title.

Information

- 4 April 2016 will mark the twentieth 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.
- 5 In order to commemorate the occasion, a photograph of all Members will be taken at the annual meeting on 20 June 2016 meeting.

Recommendation

- 6 Members are asked to note the Authority's anniversary and that a photograph will be taken to commemorate the occasion at the annual meeting in June.