



AGENDA ITEM: 8

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE PANEL

8 February 2016

IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES 2016-17

Report by Dawn Docx, Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Purpose of Report

- 1 To summarise the response to the Authority's consultation on its draft Improvement Objectives 2016-17; and to propose the basis of a final draft Improvement Plan 2016-17 for approval by the full Authority at its next meeting on 21 March 2016.

Introduction

- 2 The Authority's Improvement Planning Working Group was presented in February 2015 with a timetable for publishing its Improvement Plan 2016-17 in compliance with statutory guidance.
- 3 This timetable included a period of public consultation on draft Improvement Objectives before final approval of the Improvement Plan 2016-17 in March 2016.
- 4 The response to that consultation should now provide the Executive Panel with a basis for making a recommendation on the contents of a draft Improvement Plan 2016-17 for approval by the full Fire and Rescue Authority at its March 2016 meeting.
- 5 Under statutory regulations, the Authority is required to publish its improvement plans as soon as practicable after the end of December in the year before the year to which they relate. In practice this is interpreted as being before the end of March.

Information

- 6 The analysis of the responses to the 2015 public consultation (Appendix 1) concludes that the majority agreed with the draft objectives outlined by the Authority.

Recommendation

- 7 Members are asked to approve the production of a final draft of the Improvement Plan 2016-17 based on the four improvement objectives outlined below for approval by the full Authority at its March 2016 meeting and publication before 01 April 2016:

Objective 1

"To help to keep people and communities safe by preventing deaths and injuries from accidental fires in living accommodation". This would be carried over from previous years, reflecting the Authority's continuing commitment to this objective.

Objective 2

"Recognising the anticipated reduction in local government funding, the Authority will develop a 3-year financial strategy in which freezing the budget will be a central principle."

This would signal the Authority's intention to maintain its levy on its constituent county councils at the same level until 2019/20, and during that time to absorb any unavoidable cost increases itself.

Objective 3

"The Authority will re-balance its resources to match risk. It will implement a new model of resourcing which ensures the availability of at least 20 strategically located fire crews in North Wales at times of relatively lower risk, and at least 38 at times of relatively higher risk."

This would reflect the Authority's recognition of the need to provide sustainable and affordable fire and rescue services in North Wales.

Objective 4

"The Authority will explore opportunities to diversify the role of the firefighter and offer additional services to the public of North Wales."

This would reflect the Authority's commitment to public safety in North Wales, and its wish to continue to extend its portfolio of services through innovation and collaboration.