



AGENDA ITEM: 8

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

15th October 2007

DRAFT IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2007-08

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

Purpose of Report

- 1.** To present North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority's draft Improvement Plan 2007-08 for approval prior to publication by 31st October 2007.

Introduction

- 2.** The Fire and Rescue National Framework published in 2005 confirmed that Fire and Rescue Authorities in Wales would be subject to the Wales Programme for Improvement for Fire and Rescue (WPI-FRA).
- 3.** Progress in developing and implementing the WPI-FRA guidance has been slow, with the Welsh Assembly deferring its publication more than once. Latest indications are that a draft order will be laid in December 2007.
- 4.** In the meantime, Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) in Wales are required to publish their Annual Improvement Plan by 31st October, and to submit the plan to a formal audit.
- 5.** In relation to Performance Indicators for fire and rescue services, the Assembly is continuing to work with FRAs to develop a new suite of Strategic and Core Indicators, for use with effect from 2007-08.



Introduction *(continued)*

6. In order to present a rounded picture of the Authority's overall performance and continuous improvement, the draft guidance proposes that authorities "should report on their Risk Reduction Plan (RRP) and/or RRP Annual Action Plan and on performance and improvement under the WPI-FRA process in a cohesive way".

Information

7. For this year's Improvement Plan, the August 2007 version of the WPI-FRA draft guidance has been used; performance in 2006-07 is shown against the previous Best Value Performance Indicators; and a description of how performance will be assessed in 2007-08 is based on the latest version of the pre-consultation draft indicators. The draft Improvement Plan 2007-08 is appended for Members' approval.
8. Details of the Risk Reduction Plan have been included based on the Executive Panel's recommendations to the Fire Authority, but may be subject to change in accordance with decisions taken on 15th October 2007.

Recommendations

9. That Members:
 - 9.1 note the requirement to publish an Improvement Plan for 2007-08 before 31st October 2007;
 - 9.2 approve in principle the draft Improvement Plan 2007-08, and that any amendments or questions relating to the Plan be sent to the Assistant Chief Officer (Finance and Procurement) by 25th October 2007 to enable the Authority to publish the Plan by 31st October 2007; and
 - 9.3 delegate powers to the Executive Panel, at its meeting on 15th November 2007, to approve the final Plan document for 2007/08.