



AGENDA ITEM: 19

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

16th June 2008

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2008/09

**Report by Rhian Evans,
Member Liaison Officer**

Purpose of Report

- 1.** To advise members of the arrangements for the delivery of the proposed members' development programme for 2008/09

Background

- 2.** At its meeting on 17th March 2008 the Authority signed the Statement of Intent to apply for accreditation under the Welsh Local Government Association's (WLGA) Wales Charter for Member Support and Development: an Approach for Fire and Rescue Authorities (the Charter). One of the requirements of the Charter is that the Authority has in place an Annual Development Programme for members. This Programme needs to be informed by the Authority's Member Development Strategy. Members can find a copy of the Strategy in their Handbook.



Information

- 3.** During the Spring of 2007 the Authority established a Community Safety and Member Support and Development Working Group. The Group held its inaugural meeting in April 2007 and has met on a regular basis since then. As its name suggest this Working Group has a dual remit, with its responsibilities in relation to Member Support and Development encompassing all aspects of members' support and development - including assessing the Authority's position and progress against the Charter benchmarks.
- 4.** The Working Group held its last meeting before the local authority elections on 16th January 2008. At this meeting, in response to a request from the Fire and Rescue Authority, the Working Group considered a self-assessment against the Charter criteria. Following consideration of the self-assessment Group members decided to recommend to the Authority that it proceed to sign the Statement of Intent. The Working Group also recommended that with a view to enhancing members' knowledge and understating of the Service, it would prove valuable to have short themed presentations on various aspects of the Service's work before or during meetings of the full Authority.
- 5.** Members will have already participated in the new and returning Members' Induction Day, held on 11th June 2008. The objective of this event was to give members a broad overview of their roles, responsibilities and duties as Fire and Rescue Authority members. During this event members were given an opportunity to view a range of appliances and equipment used by the Service, and for which the Authority is required to provide the financial resources to purchase and maintain.



Information *(continued)*

- 6.** Prior to today's meetings members will have received a recap session focussing on Risk Reduction Planning and the Wales Programme for Improvement and during the meeting a presentation will be given on the Authority's Training and Development Arrangements.
- 7.** An All-Wales Fire and Rescue Authorities' Members Development Event has been arranged for Monday 15th September 2008. This event will be held at the Brecon Castle Hotel, Brecon and will commence at 10am and will provide members with an ideal opportunity to receive briefings and discuss issues and policies that affect all fire and rescue authorities in Wales.
- 8.** Another requirement of the Charter is that members agree to participate in a specified number of training and development events during any given year. Due to the increasing demand on councillors' time, both on council and other business, it is being proposed that, for the foreseeable future, a short training session should be held immediately prior to all full Fire and Rescue Authority meetings (please refer to the report submitted under business item number 9 to today's Annual Meeting for the relevant dates). This will assist in maximising members' availability to attend, as the dates will have already been set-aside for Authority business. If necessary, dependent on the subject(s) to be presented at each session, the commencement time for the business meeting may need to be varied slightly.



Information *(continued)*

- 9.** Attached at Appendix 1 is a list of proposed subjects/areas of work which will be included in the development programme for 2008/09. The full development programme will be published in the due course. It will have regard to legislative and corporate requirements as well as to members' own needs as highlighted in their responses to a training needs questionnaire which will shortly be issued to all members. Members are requested to return the questionnaire as it will assist officers in tailoring the Member Development Programme to suit their needs.
- 10.** This attached list is not exhaustive and will evolve over time. In a bid to cater for members' different learning preferences the events will be presented in various formats. In addition to the sessions preceding Authority meetings, site visits and demonstrations will also be arranged.

Recommendations

- 11.** That members:
 - 11.1** agree to holding member development/training sessions immediately prior to meetings of the full Fire and Rescue Authority;
 - 11.2** note and approve the proposed member training programme for 2008/09 as detailed in Appendix 1; and
 - 11.3** following an analysis of the responses to the training needs questionnaire, authorise the Member Support and Development and Community Safety Champions Working Group to draw-up a Member Development Programme.



Appendix 1

Proposals for other sessions

Awareness briefings

- 1.** The role of the External Auditor
- 2.** Integrated Personal Development System
- 3.** Fire Safety and Community Fire Safety
- 4.** Industrial Relations
- 5.** Welsh Language Issues
- 6.** Equalities Issues

Skills Development

- 1.** Scrutiny and Member Engagement
- 2.** Business Continuity Management
- 3.** Risk Reduction Planning and the Wales Programme for Improvement
- 4.** Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures

Proposed demonstrations and visits

- 1.** Visit to the World Firefighter Games 2008
- 2.** Visits to the current and new Control Rooms
- 3.** Presentation on the Fire Service Emergency Cover (FSEC) model
- 4.** Rope Rescue/Water Rescue/Flooding
- 5.** Civil Contingencies/Resilience Work
- 6.** Visit to the Rhyl Community Fire Station
- 7.** Dangerpoint
- 8.** Dolgellau Training Facility
- 9.** Road Traffic Collision Extrication Demonstration