

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
EXECUTIVE PANEL REPORT

DATE:	18 th May 2006
REPORT BY:	Paul Claydon, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Service Delivery)
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	To provide Members with a progress report on the development of the Wales Programme for Improvement for Fire and Rescue Authorities.

1. **INTRODUCTION**

The Wales Programme for Improvement (WPI) is issued by the Assembly under its powers to specify matters which an authority must include in its best value performance plans (Section 6 of the Local Government Act 1999).

2. **PROGRESS TO DATE**

Following last year's review of the WPI guidance for local authorities, the Assembly has now produced a working draft of the Wales Programme for Improvement for Fire and Rescue Authorities (WPI-FRA) in preparation for formal consultation. This working draft continues to be amended in response to input from the WPI Steering Committee, the WPI Development Group and the WPI Performance Indicators Group.

No date has been given for the issue of a draft for consultation, but it is anticipated that the finalised WPI-FRA will come into effect from April 2007.

3. **PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

The planning and reporting stages described in the working draft of WPI-FRA guidance have been designed to tie in with those in the Risk Reduction Planning guidance, with a view to reducing the overall planning burden on FRAs.

4. **CORE ELEMENTS**

As signalled in the Fire and Rescue National Framework for Wales (2005), the draft guidance will be based on the five elements of: leadership; governance and management; capacity; performance management and continuous improvement; and e-fire and rescue.

5. **MAIN STAGES**

It is proposed that an initial assessment by the FRA will lead to a Joint Risk Assessment between the FRA and regulators, which in turn will lead to an Improvement Plan.

6. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 That Members note the progress being made by the Assembly in producing a draft for consultation of the WPI - FRA guidance.