



AGENDA ITEM: 14

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

19th March 2012

SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENT AND RISK REDUCTION OBJECTIVES FOR 2012-13

Report by Dawn Docx, Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Purpose of Report

- 1 To summarise for Members the agreed Improvement Objectives for 2012-13 as contained in the Authority's published Improvement and Risk Reduction Plan 2010-11 to 2012-13.

Background

2. In accordance with the Local Government Measure 2009, the Authority publishes improvement objectives for each financial year.
3. Under current guidance, these are published annually before the end of October, six months before the start of the financial year to which they relate.
4. Welsh Government officials had sought to introduce interim arrangements to move the Improvement Plans publication date forward by 3-6 months to more effectively align their production with financial planning cycles, but the necessary consent to make the changes could not be obtained in time for the 2012-13 year. This was confirmed by e-mail at the end of March 2011.

Information

- 5 In October 2010, the Authority published a set of improvement objectives to work towards from April 2011. Further objectives were then developed as a direct consequence of the Authority's decision in December 2010 to freeze the annual budget at £32 million from 2011-12 until 2013-14.
- 6 Although Fire and Rescue Authorities are required to set improvement objectives every year, this does not mean that the objectives have to change every year or be deliverable within one year.
- 7 The Authority's Executive Panel therefore resolved at its May 2011 meeting that in view of:
 - the broad scope of the existing objectives already in the 2011 - 12 Improvement and Risk Reduction Plan;
 - the need to allow time to consolidate existing objectives at a time of increasing pressure from reducing budgets;
 - the unexpectedly tight timescales for publishing the 2012-13 plan by the end of October 2011 rather than the end of March 2012; and
 - the Welsh Government's decision to defer the production of a new Fire and Rescue National Framework, leaving the existing 2008-11 Framework in place for the time being;

the Authority should carry forward the same objectives to 2012-13 as it had already adopted for 2011-12. The full Authority ratified this approach at its meeting in June 2011, and approved the 2012-13 improvement objectives at its meeting in October 2011.

- 8 The 2012-13 Improvement Objectives are attached for information at Appendix 1.

Recommendation

- 9 That Members note the eight Improvement Objectives for the year 2012-13 as presented at Appendix 1.

APPENDIX 1

<u>2012-13 Improvement and Risk Reduction Objectives</u>	
OBJ 1	To help to keep people and communities safe by preventing deaths and injuries from accidental fires in living accommodation.
OBJ 2	To help minimise the risk of fires starting accidentally in non-domestic properties, so that normal activities can continue and the lives of people visiting and working there are not put at risk.
OBJ 3	To help to minimise the danger and damage caused by non-fire emergencies, such as flooding, road traffic collisions, and chemical incidents.
OBJ 4	To help to tackle problems of deliberate fire setting so that people, communities, businesses, the environment and the area's heritage are not put at risk.
OBJ 5	To focus on improving the sustainable development of the Authority by finding the right balance between the environmental, economic and social impact of providing a fire and rescue service.
OBJ 6	To become better at identifying and engaging with people who could find themselves socially and/or economically disadvantaged, so that we can enhance their sense of wellbeing and reduce the level of risk to their personal safety.
OBJ 7	To ensure that the Service's Business Continuity Planning and Management arrangements are as comprehensive and secure as they can be.
OBJ 8	To find ways of reducing the overall cost of running the Service each year in order to operate with an annual budget of £32 million until 2013-14.