



AGENDA ITEM: 6

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE PANEL

7th February 2011

SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENT AND RISK REDUCTION OBJECTIVES FOR 2011-12

Report by Dawn Docx, Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Purpose of Report

- 1 To summarise for members the Improvement and Risk Reduction objectives for 2011-12.

Background

- 2 The Local Government Measure 2009 ('the Measure') expanded the definition of improvement and encourages Welsh Improvement Authorities to determine their own improvement objectives under any of seven defined elements of improvement.
- 3 Risk Reduction Planning guidance promotes the adoption of an annual process of determining the corporate and community risks facing the Authority, and developing action plans to manage these.
- 4 It is accepted that in practice it would be difficult to separate out any risk reduction activity that could not also be judged to be an 'improvement' as defined under the Measure.

Introduction

- 5 Following consideration of a broad range of information, the Authority developed and agreed a set of seven Improvement Objectives to work towards from April 2011.

Information

- 6 The Authority's Improvement Objectives for April 2011 onwards contained within Section 4 of the Combined Improvement and Risk Reduction Plan 2009-12 are provided at Appendix 1.
- 7 Previously agreed objectives for the period before April 2011 continue to be pursued, and there will be additional objectives that arise directly from the decision to freeze the revenue budget at £32million for the next three years.
- 8 Quarterly internal meetings will provide a forum for routine monitoring of planned actions for achieving the objectives and external monitoring will be part of Wales Audit Office's Improvement Audit.

Recommendation

- 9 That members note the agreed Improvement Objectives contained within Section 4 of the Combined Improvement and Risk Reduction Plan 2009-12 for the forthcoming year 2011-12.

<u>2011-12 IMPROVEMENT/RISK REDUCTION PLAN OBJECTIVES</u>	
OBJ 1	To help to keep people and communities safe by preventing deaths and injuries from accidental fires in living accommodation.
1.1	Delivery of Community Safety/Risk Reduction Strategy (incl. provision of Community Safety advice, targeted and tailored delivery of HFSCs, and provision of free equipment according to assessed need).
1.2	Peer Assessment of the Community Safety Strategy.
1.3	Continuous monitoring of the incidence of dwelling fires.
1.4	Involvement of partner organisations in learning lessons from dwelling fires to reduce the likelihood of recurrence.
1.5	Use of information to predict and prevent dwelling fires.
1.6	Development of a local attendance standard to support fast and accurate response to dwelling fires.
1.7	Improving availability of RDS fire stations through more efficient management of recruitment processes.
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.
2.1	Continued development of targeted programme of inspections of fire safety arrangements in non-domestic properties using local intelligence and information held on RMS.
2.2	Fast and accurate response to fires in non-domestic premises by fire crews equipped with information on MDTs linked to centrally held hazard records and other intelligence.
OBJ 3	To help to minimise the danger and damage caused by non-fire emergencies, such as flooding, road traffic collisions, and chemical incidents.
3.1	Continued interagency working (e.g. with Environment Agency) and active participation in the LRF.
3.2	Continued participation in schemes designed to increase road safety, such as Pass Plus Wales, the Motor Education Scheme and Impact Roadshows.
3.3	Development of a method of profiling RTC incidents in North Wales to support and enhance the strategy for mitigating their effects.
3.4	Development of, and baseline measurement against, local performance indicators to support improvement in this area.
3.5	Continued increase in accurate records of hazardous materials held on premises.

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.
4.1	Collaboration with North Wales Police and other public and voluntary agencies to prevent arson and acts of vandalism by fire.
4.2	Working closely with particular groups and individuals (e.g. through the Phoenix and FACE schemes) to influence behaviour away from deliberate fire-setting.
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.
5.1	Roll-out of Sustainable Development Action Plan.
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.
6.1	Drawing together a range of population-based information from reliable sources to support efficient and effective targeting of safety advice.
6.2	Development of a Single Equality Scheme that helps to protect people from being disadvantaged unfairly on account of their age, disability, gender, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy, race, religion or belief, or sexual orientation.
OBJ 7	To ensure that the Service's Business Continuity Planning and Management arrangements are as comprehensive and secure as they can be.
7.1	Reappraisal of Business Continuity Planning resources and responsibilities to promote renewed emphasis on progressing with existing plans and continuously developing new ones.
7.2	Giving equal importance to corporate and operational business continuity management to ensure that no area has been overlooked and that recovery plans are robust.