



AGENDA ITEM: 11

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE PANEL

3rd February 2014

IMPROVEMENT ASSESSMENT LETTER

Report by Dawn Docx, Deputy Chief Fire Officer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 The purpose of this report is to present to Members the Improvement Assessment Letter. A representative from the Wales Audit Office will be at the meeting to discuss the letter in more detail.

BACKGROUND

- 2 Following the introduction of the Local Government Measure 2009, the Auditor General for Wales (AGW) is required to give an opinion on whether the Authority has discharged its duties in respect of improvement reporting and met the requirements of the Measure.

INFORMATION

- 3 The Improvement Assessment Letter attached at Annex 1 summarises the AGW's opinion, and he confirms that the Authority has discharged its improvement reporting duties under the Measure. The AGW also states that there is potential to strengthen the arrangements further.
- 4 The AGW suggests the following proposals for improvements.
 - Ensure that the Assessment of Performance report is promoted visibly on the Authority's website and that its existence is widely publicised.

- Complete and publicise the summary of the report ensuring that external stakeholders are made aware of its presence.
- Ensure that the Assessment of Performance report is available in differing formats and that this availability is clearly stated in the report.
- Include a section inviting specific comment or input from citizens and the community about the Assessment.

RECOMMENDATION

- 5 That Members accept the Improvement Assessment Letter and note that an Annual Improvement Report for the Authority will be published by the end of March 2014.