

NORTH WALES FIRE SERVICE

FIRE AUTHORITY REPORT

DATE:	27th October 2003
REPORT BY:	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	To introduce to Members the draft Fire Authority's Integrated Risk Management Plan and name change for their approval.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In December 2002 the Deputy Prime Minister made it clear that there should be a programme of reform and modernisation of the framework within which the fire service operates. A key element of that programme was the need to produce fire authority Integrated Risk Management Plans (IRMPs).
- 1.2 The purpose of this paper is to present the attached draft IRMP and to recommend that the Authority approve the IRMP and Action Plan and, once approved, authorise the Chief Fire Officer to publish and distribute the plan as part of the consultation process recommended by Government.
- 1.3 The Authority is also asked to approve the change of name to the "North Wales Fire and Rescue Service" in line with Government intentions in the White Paper.

2. IRMP PROCESS

- 2.1 The Executive Panel's IRMP working group had its inaugural meeting on 19th May 2003 and since that time has kept to an exacting timetable of 11 meetings that concluded on the 7th October.
- 2.1 This series of meetings had to produce an IRMP that realised the Government's primary objectives of: -
 - Reducing the number of fires and other emergency incidents occurring;
 - Reducing loss of life in fires and other emergency incidents;
 - Reducing the number and severity of injuries in fires and other emergency incidents;
 - Reduce the commercial, economic and social impact of fires and other emergency incidents;
 - Safeguarding the environment and heritage (both built and natural); and
 - Providing communities with value for money.

2. **IRMP PROCESS** *(continued)*

2.2 The working group utilised the recommended four phase planning process to structure the IRMP process. The phases were: -

- Identifying existing risks.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of current arrangements.
- Identifying improvement opportunities that will determine policies and standards.
- Determine resource requirements to meet the policies and standards.

2.3 The resulting draft IRMP is the culmination of intensive work between Members and officers over the past 6 months.

3. **NAME CHANGE**

3.1 Members will be aware that during the process of preparing the IRMP the Government published its vision for the future of the fire service in a White Paper entitled "Our Fire and Rescue Service".

3.2 At the very outset of the White Paper was Government's intention to change the name for the Fire Service to incorporate the rescue function, which is now a substantial part of the service given to the public. Therefore the name would reflect this and be the Fire and Rescue Service.

3.3 Many Brigades have already adopted this title including both Mid & West and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

3.4 The full estimated cost of immediate replacement of all signage, livery and stationery for North Wales Fire Service is approximately £47,000. However, if the change of name were to be phased in gradually, the costs could be kept to a minimum and absorbed into the budget.

4. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 Members note the contents of the report.

4.2 Members approve the draft IRMP and Action Plan.

4.3 Members authorise the Chief Fire Officer to publish the report and consult on its proposals.

4.4 Members approve the change of name to the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service.