



AGENDA ITEM: 6

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

23rd October 2006

RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION ON THE AUTHORITY'S DRAFT RISK REDUCTION PLAN (RRP) 2007-08

**Report by Simon Smith,
Chief Fire Officer**

Purpose of Report

- 1.** To seek the Fire and Rescue Authority's endorsement of the Executive Panel's recommendations relating to the draft RRP 2007-08 and the Authority's response to comments received during the consultation period.

Introduction

- 2.** Members approved the Authority's draft Risk Reduction Plan (RRP) 2007-08 for consultation on 19th June 2006.
- 3.** In accordance with guidance issued by the Welsh Assembly Government, a comprehensive 12 week consultation process was undertaken, and responses were received up to and including the closing date of 29th September 2006.



Information

4. Initial contact was made with over 800 individuals and organisations in July, informing of the RRP process and how to access the web version of the draft RRP, and encouraging them to participate in the consultation. Another letter enclosing a paper copy of the draft RRP followed in August.
5. Briefings were provided for senior politicians in North Wales, and press releases were sent to the media to encourage a response.
6. Messages were issued to staff through internal communications to encourage participation, and paper copies of the draft RRP were sent to all Service premises.
7. An electronic version was available on the Authority's website: routine monitoring showed that this was visited 60 times during the 12 weeks.
8. 16 written responses were received in total: 1 from a fire authority member, 2 from county councillors, 4 from serving and retired Chief Fire Officers, 1 from an Assembly Member, 1 from a Member of Parliament, 1 from a Member of the House of Lords, 3 from Town Councils, 2 from representative bodies, and 1 from the director of a fire protection company
9. This level of response compares with 34 responses to the first consultation on the IRMP/Action Plan in October 2003, 3 to the second in 2004, and 36 to the third in 2005.
10. All responses have been analysed. The comments that were put forward are presented in the Attachment, with a draft response from the Authority. The draft response was approved by the Executive Panel on 9th October 2006.



Information (continued)

- 11.** The majority of responses received this year were supportive of the Authority, and several were directly complimentary.
- 12.** Some responses sought additional clarification and explanation on the proposals, while others offered suggestions for additional or alternative measures.
- 13.** Some responses presented alternative views, but few directly disagreed with what the Authority is proposing for 2007-08.
- 14.** In light of the responses received, the Executive Panel resolved to recommend that the RRP 2007-08 be adopted as drafted, subject to only minor editorial corrections.

Recommendations

- 15.** That Members:
 - 15.1** note the responses received to the consultation on the RRP 2007-08;
 - 15.2** endorse the recommendation of the Executive Panel to approve the adoption of the RRP 2007-08 as drafted, subject to only minor editorial corrections;
 - 15.3** endorse the recommendation of the Executive Panel to issue a response to written comments submitted on the draft RRP 2007-08 as presented in Attachment 1.