



## **AGENDA ITEM: 15**

### **NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**15<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2010**

#### **DEVELOPMENT OF RISK REDUCTION OBJECTIVES**

**Report by Dawn Docx, Deputy Chief Fire Officer**

##### **Purpose of Report**

- 1 To seek the Authority's approval to proceed with the development of risk reduction objectives under three specific headings in 2011-12 and beyond.

##### **Background**

- 2 The Authority is required to publish, by 31 October each year, plans detailing its improvement and risk reduction objectives for the following financial year.
- 3 A 12-week public consultation conducted by the Authority in 2009 gave an opportunity to gauge staff and public response to four risk reduction topic areas. These related to its work with young people, the retained duty system, co-responding and more generally its approach to finances.
- 4 Having considered the responses received, the Executive Panel developed position statements relating to the first three - copies are attached for information at appendix 1.
- 5 A sub-group of the Authority's Risk Reduction Plan (RRP) Working Group subsequently met on five occasions between November 2009 and February 2010 to continue to develop an appropriate set of risk reduction objectives that the Authority would aim to achieve from April 2011 onwards.

- 6 This report presents the output from that sub-group, and seeks approval from the full Authority to proceed to develop draft risk reduction objectives that will form the basis of next summer's 12-week public consultation.
- 7 The next stage will be to develop a draft Combined Improvement and Risk Reduction Plan 2009-2012, summarised in a public consultation document. This will be presented for approval to the full Fire and Rescue Authority at its June 2010 meeting.
- 8 The eventual contents of the post-consultation draft Plan will be presented to the full Authority at its October 2010 meeting for approval prior to publishing by 31 October 2010.

### **Information**

- 9 Taking the process forward, the specific risk reduction objectives that are being developed for 2011-12 and beyond relate to:
  - Sustainability
  - Equality and Diversity
  - Business Continuity Management.
- 10 The Authority's Aerial Ladder Platform attendance standard is also considered by the RRP working group, but no conclusion has been reached from the analytical work completed to date as to whether any change is required to the existing 20 minute standard.

### **Recommendation**

- 11 Members are asked to:
  - a) note the progress made to date;
  - b) note the position statements in appendix 1;
  - c) approve the development of risk reduction objectives relating to sustainability, equality and diversity and business continuity management.

**Position statements issued by the Authority following the Summer 2009 Risk Reduction Planning consultation process.**

**Working with young people**

The Authority is fully supportive of the Service's work with the youth and is aware that the Assembly has commissioned a piece of work on the future of working with young people and children within the fire and rescue services in Wales. The Chief Fire Officer has been tasked with running a task and finish group to develop a children and young people fire and rescue strategy. The final report will be ready by March. Members look forward to receiving the strategy at a future meeting.

**Retained Duty System**

The Authority notes that the Assembly has established a committee to undertake a RDS review. The Authority looks forward to the review and is supportive of innovative and flexible arrangements being considered to sustain fire cover in rural areas.

**Co-responding**

The Authority has decided not to pursue the co-responding scheme.