



AGENDA ITEM: 19

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

15th March 2010

PILOT FIRE SAFETY STRUCTURE

Report by Richard Fairhead, Senior Fire Safety Manager

Purpose of Report

- 1 To inform Members about the pilot for a new Fire Safety Structure that will be implemented on the 5th April 2010.

Background

- 2 The Fire Safety function has two main strands, Legislative and Community. Since 2004 these two strands have been managed in each county area of North Wales by the County Safety Manager who reports to both the Legislation Manager and the Community Safety Manager.
- 3 The Legislative workload in each county area is currently delivered by two Fire Safety Enforcement Officers (FSEOs) and a varying number of Fire Safety Inspecting Officers (FSIOs). The County Safety Managers spend 50% of their time managing this delivery.
- 4 The numbers of FSEOs in each county was based on an outdated formula (Fire Precautions Act 1971. Guide to Fire Precautions in Existing Places of Work that Require a Fire Certificate). The number of FSEOs was calculated using guidance based on working with the Fire Precautions Act 1971 and the operational needs of the Service. This has not been amended to reflect the Service re-organisation in 2004 and the introduction of the Fire Safety Order in 2006.
- 5 In addition, the publication of the Chief Fire Officer's Task Group Report in 2007 was a positive shift in emphasis in the way the Service delivered Community Safety. This focus resulted in the County Safety

Manager committing more time to developing and maintaining partnerships with key local partners. The results have been that the Service has increased the delivery of HFSCs by 400% and developed partnerships to identify and help the most vulnerable in North Wales

- 6 This has resulted in the County Safety Managers having less time to devote to legislative fire safety and possibly reduced the impact the Service could have in the areas covered by the Fire Safety Order

Information

- 7 The Pilot will seek to re-allocate resources and improve the delivery of both Legislative Fire Safety and Community Fire Safety.
- 8 Community Fire Safety in each county will be managed by the County Safety Manager and their deputy who will concentrate all their working time on increasing and improving the delivery of Community Safety in the area. The County Safety Managers will report to the Community Safety Manager
- 9 Legislative Fire Safety will be delivered by dedicated FSEOs and FSIOs in Areas, each managed by an area lead. There will be three areas, Môn/Gwynedd, Conwy/Denbighshire and Flintshire/Wrexham. Each Area Lead will report to the Legislation Manager who will also manage a central team developing policy and improving support to the delivery of Legislative Fire Safety delivery.
- 10 The separation of these strands will increase the Service's ability to continue the development of community safety and also improve the ability of the Service to ensure compliance in non-domestic properties across North Wales.
- 11 The Pilot will run for twelve months during which a full evaluation of the effects on both Community Fire Safety and Legislative Fire safety will be undertaken.

Recommendation

- 12 That members note that the Service is running a Pilot Fire Safety Structure across North Wales which will be evaluated and the results communicated to Members.