



AGENDA ITEM: 11

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

18th October 2010

PRELIMINARY CORPORATE ASSESSMENT

Report by Dawn Docx, Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Purpose of Report

- 1 To present the first Corporate Assessment to Members for information prior to its publication.

Background

- 2 Following the introduction of the Local Government (Wales) Measure, the Auditor General is now required to undertake an annual Improvement Assessment for each improvement authority in Wales. This is done in the form of an annual forward-looking Corporate Assessment and retrospective Performance Assessment of each Fire and Rescue Authority.

Information

- 3 This year is a transitional year and so a preliminary Corporate Assessment has been undertaken by the Wales Audit Office. The report (Appendix A) sets out the findings of that Corporate Assessment and is designed to answer the question: 'Are the arrangements of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority likely to secure continuous improvement?'.
- 4 The Auditor General has not made formal recommendations for improvement, however, the following have been identified as areas for improvement:

- 5 “The Authority should consider:
- Addressing the possible duplication of roles in monitoring performance information by the Executive Panel and Audit Committee to avoid unnecessary confusion or duplication.
 - Ensuring that the current range of reporting software provides for a sound decision making process in the medium to long term.
 - Reviewing what business processes will best support the successful delivery of planned projects.
 - Formulating a medium-term plan to gain agreement on broad policy direction and required resources for delivery.”
- 6 These suggestions and the response to them by the Fire Authority will feed into the second reporting element, the Improvement Assessment which will be published by the end of November.

Recommendation

- 7 That Members note the contents of the preliminary corporate assessment and that the document will be published by the Wales Audit Office as part of the Annual Improvement Report at the end of November 2010.