

Report to	North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority
Date	17 April 2023
Lead Officer	Stewart Forshaw, Deputy Chief Fire Officer (Corporate Policy & Planning)
Contact Officer	Head of Corporate Planning
Subject	Annual Review of the Authority's Corporate Plan 2021-24



PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To present North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority) Members with the updated Corporate Plan 2021-24 for approval following its annual review.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. In March 2021, the Authority published a 3-year Corporate Plan for 2021-24 in which it set out its seven long-term improvement and well-being objectives, and the actions that it proposed to take in the first year 2021-22.
3. In October 2022 Members agreed that the improvement and well-being objectives would remain unchanged for the final year 2023-24.
4. The 2023-24 Corporate Plan has been updated to include actions achieved in 2022-23, along with the priorities against each objective for its final year.
5. The revised draft plan was presented to the Authority's Executive Panel on 20 March 2023, with comments from the meeting included in this final version of the plan.

RECOMMENDATION

6. Members are asked to:
 - i) note the refreshed appearance of the 2023-24 Corporate Plan annual review in comparison to previous years;
 - ii) note that data contained within it is subject to final audit; and
 - iii) approve the 2023/24 Corporate Plan for publication on the Service website.

INFORMATION

7. Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRA) in Wales are required to publish improvement objectives in accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, and well-being objectives in compliance with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. For the purposes of the Authority's planning processes, these are treated as one and the same.
8. Key challenges for the Authority as it moves into the 2023-24 financial year remain. These relate to:
 - availability of on-call fire crews;
 - maintenance and development of firefighter skills; and
 - having sufficient corporate capacity to meet current and future demand.
9. The Authority's 2023-24 annual review of its 2021-24 Corporate Plan, continues to:
 - confirm the Authority's long-term improvement and well-being objectives;
 - outline what actions are planned to be achieved or progressed by the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service (the Service) in 2023-24;
 - reflect the key challenges facing the Authority, including the three that were clarified through the Chief Fire Officer's situational assessment;
 - take account of Audit Wales' findings and recommendations;
 - consider the recommendations from the Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor for Wales thematic reviews' recommendations;
 - consider the ongoing work of the Public Services Boards, especially where objectives align with the Authority's own plans;
 - ensure preparedness for any future amendments arising from an updated National Framework, and any additional recommendations from the Well-being of Future Generations Commissioners office; and
 - align with the Authority's revenue budget, capital plan and medium-term financial plan.

IMPLICATIONS

Well-being Objectives	The Plan confirms the Authority's long-term well-being objectives and explains what it proposes to do towards achieving them.
Budget	The Authority's agreed capital and revenue budgets 2023-24 reflect the steps that will be taken during that year towards achieving the Authority's Well-Being Objectives.
Legal	Supports compliance with improvement planning and well-being legislation.
Staffing	No known impact on staffing levels at this time.
Equalities/Human Rights/Welsh Language	The impact of specific actions on these aspects will be assessed at the appropriate point in their development.
Risks	Reduces the risks of legal non-compliance and of failing to budget and plan appropriately.