



## **AGENDA ITEM: 9**

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

**18<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

#### **IMPROVEMENT ASSESSMENT: INCLUDING CORPORATE ASSESSMENT UPDATE**

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

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

- 1 To present the Improvement Assessment including corporate assessment update to Members.

##### **Background**

- 2 Following the introduction of the Local Government (Wales) Measure, the Auditor General is required to undertake an annual Improvement Assessment for each improvement authority in Wales.
- 3 During the transition period the Wales Audit Office has established a general baseline, including views of other inspectorates and regulators, in order to be able to accurately and proportionately assess improvement arrangements in future years. Having undertaken this work, the Wales Audit Office recognises that a comprehensive assessment will not be necessary in most authorities in any one year.

##### **Information**

- 4 The letter attached from the Auditor General for Wales summarises:
  - the Authority's compliance with its statutory obligations to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement;
  - the Authority's progress on areas for improvement and recommendations identified in the 2010 assessment;

- a brief commentary on any relevant issues that may have emerged since the last report, including comments on how the Authority is addressing financial challenges; and
  - updates to the work plan and timetable for delivering the Improvement Assessment work.
- 5 The Wales Audit Office is satisfied that the Authority is discharging its duties under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, and is likely to comply with its requirements during this financial year.
- 6 Emerging issues which will be considered further by the Wales Audit Office during the year include reviewing how well the Authority uses ICT to support improvement and how people management activities support improvement. Also, the Wales Audit Office will be monitoring the development of the Authority's financial strategy.

### **Recommendation**

- 7 That Members note the contents of the letter.