



## **AGENDA ITEM: 16**

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

**17<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

#### **CHINESE LANTERNS**

**Report by Colin Everett, Clerk to the Authority**

#### **Purpose of Report**

- 1 To consider the Notice of Motion recently passed at Flintshire County Council about Chinese Lanterns.

#### **Background**

- 2 Flintshire County Council at its meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2011 considered a Notice of Motion about Chinese Lanterns as follows:

“In view of the inherent danger to livestock, farm produce, and the countryside in general caused by the release and launch of Chinese lanterns, this County Council calls upon the Westminster Parliament and/or the Welsh Government to introduce legislation to ban the use of such flying devices”.

#### **Information**

- 3 The County Council debated the issue and concerns were raised around the impact of the lanterns landing on farm land and endangering the lives of livestock. Some particular examples of the damage caused included:
  - any metal parts that land in the countryside were a danger to livestock if they were eaten by the animals directly or became incorporated unseen into winter feed that had been cut and harvested from open fields;

- lanterns that fall to the ground while still burning were a significant fire hazard; and
  - the lantern represents a source of indiscriminate littering.
- 4 Members of the Council asked for the motion to be circulated to neighbouring Local Authorities who may also wish to give their support. Therefore Members of the FRA are encouraged to share this within their constituent authorities.
- 5 Following a debate, the County Council resolved:
- “That in view of the inherent danger to livestock, farm produce and the countryside in general caused by the release and launch of Chinese Lanterns, the County Council calls upon the Westminster Parliament and/or the Welsh Government to introduce legislation to ban the sale and use of such flying devices.”

### **Recommendation**

- 6 That the Authority agrees to support and call upon the Westminster Parliament and/or the Welsh Government to introduce legislation to ban the use of such flying projectiles”.