



AGENDA ITEM: 7

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE PANEL

13 February 2017

IMPROVEMENT AND WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES 2017-18

Report by Dawn Docx, Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Purpose of Report

- 1 To summarise the response to the Authority's consultation on its draft Improvement and Well-being Objectives 2017-18; and to propose the basis of a final draft Improvement and Well-being Plan 2017-18 for approval by the full Authority at its next meeting on 20 March 2017.

Introduction

- 2 The Authority's Improvement Planning Working Group was presented in February 2016 with a timetable for publishing its first combined Improvement and Well-being Plan 2017-18 (the Plan) in compliance with issued guidance.
- 3 This timetable included a period of public consultation on draft objectives that would form the basis of the Plan.
- 4 The response to that consultation should now inform the Executive Panel's recommendation on the contents of the Plan for approval by the full Fire and Rescue Authority at its March 2017 meeting.
- 5 In accordance with statutory guidance, the Authority must publish its improvement plan for 2017-18 as soon as practicable after the end of December 2016, and its first Well-being Plan before the end of March 2017. Advice issued recently clarifies that to all intents and purposes well-being objectives and improvement objectives can be treated as one and the same.

Information

- 6 Following a series of meetings of the Improvement Planning Working Group, the Authority identified four improvement and well-being objectives for 2017/18: These related to:
- continuing to keep people safe from fire in their homes;
 - taking a new approach to meeting the Authority's costs;
 - protecting all North Wales communities with better planning of firefighting crews;
 - exploring how the Authority can provide more and different services for North Wales communities.
- 7 The Authority subsequently consulted the public and a range of organisations and individuals on these four draft objectives. Details of the consultation methods and an analysis of the responses received are provided at Appendix 1.
- 8 The majority of responses were made via an online questionnaire, with 164 respondents choosing to add free text comments. Twenty-seven organisations and individuals submitted written responses by e-mail or post. A number of written responses raised similar or identical concerns, many of which echoed members' own discussions at last June's fire authority meeting. The key themes arising from those written responses are considered at Appendix 2.

Recommendations

- 9 Members are asked to approve the production of a draft Improvement and Well-being Plan 2017-18 based on the four improvement objectives shown below for approval by the Authority at its March 2017 meeting and publication before 1 April 2017:
- (i) to help to keep people and communities safe by preventing deaths and injuries from accidental fires in living accommodation;

- (ii) to adopt a 3-year financial strategy that combines using reserves, increasing financial contributions and making service reductions;
- (iii) to re-balance the Authority's resources to match risk by implementing a model of resourcing that ensures the availability of at least 20 strategically located fire crews in North Wales at times of relatively lower risk, and at least 38 at times of relatively higher risk; and
- (iv) to explore opportunities to diversify the role of a firefighter and offer additional services to the public of North Wales.