

Report to	Audit Committee
Date	16 December 2024
Lead Officer	Stewart Forshaw, Deputy Chief Fire Officer
Contact Officer	Anthony Jones, Head of Planning, Performance and Transformation
Subject	Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009



PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 The purpose of this report is to confirm to Members of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority) the outcome of the external audit of the Authority's 2024/25 improvement measures, as required by the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (the Measure).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2 Under the Measure, the Authority is required to publish an annual Improvement Plan as soon as reasonably practicable after the start of the financial year. This requirement is incorporated into the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2024-2029 and Community Risk Management Implementation Plan (CRMIP) 2024-2025, which were presented to Members at the Authority meeting of 15 July 2024.
- 3 The improvement measures are subject to audit by Audit Wales who are required to report on whether the Authority has discharged its responsibilities under section 17 and 19 of the Measure.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4 Members are asked to:
 - i) Note the audit letter which confirms that the Authority has discharged its responsibilities under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

BACKGROUND

- 5 Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRA) in Wales are required to publish improvement objectives in accordance with the Measure, 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.

- 6 The Measure requires the Authority to:
- Make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions;
 - Make arrangements to secure achievement of its improvement objectives; and
 - Make arrangements to exercise its functions so that any performance standard specified by the Welsh Ministers is met.

INFORMATION

- 7 The CRMP 2024-2029 and the CRMIP 2024-25 sets out the Authority's objectives, and were approved by Members at the meeting of the 15 July 2024. It is subject to audit review by Audit Wales who are required to confirm whether the Authority has discharged its responsibilities in respect of the improvement measures.
- 8 The audit letter set out in Appendix 1 confirms that Audit Wales has concluded its work and is satisfied that the Authority has discharged its responsibilities.

IMPLICATIONS

Wellbeing Objectives	This report confirms that the Authority has met its statutory obligations under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009
Budget	The improvement measures set out in the CRMP 2024-2029 and CRMIP 2024-2025 are underpinned by the financial planning process
Legal	The Audit Wales report confirms that the Authority has met its statutory obligations.
Staffing	None
Equalities/Human Rights/Welsh Language	None
Risks	The development of the CRMP 2024 -2029 considers the risks faced by the Authority.