



AGENDA ITEM: 13

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

17th December 2012

NATIONAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

Report by Simon Smith, Chief Fire Officer

Purpose of Report

- 1 To update Members as to the work being undertaken under the direction of the National Issues Committee (NIC).

Background

- 2 At the last Fire and Rescue Authority meeting it was agreed that regular reports on the progress of the NIC would be brought to future meetings together with any proposals which require the specific approval of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority.

Information

- 3 The NIC held its third meeting at Llandrindod Wells Fire and Rescue station on 20th November 2012. There was a full attendance with the Chairs, Deputy Chairs, Chief Fire Officers and Deputy Chief Fire Officers of all three FRAs in Wales being present.
- 4 The following issues were discussed at the meeting:
 - There was some discussion over ministerial correspondence prior to a meeting arranged between the Chair of the NIC, Cllr Tudor Davies, and the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government later in November.

- The measurement framework had now been amended and distributed to all project leads, including the measurement guidance document.
- Clarification of the financial calculations for the pumping appliance report had been completed and figures amended accordingly.
- The forward work programme for the National Control Arrangements had been endorsed and early work has identified that £30,000 per year can be saved through the integration of the Local Authority NLPG Gazetteer into the Fire and Rescue Services' Command and Control systems. Also, through the piloting of Direct Electronic Incident Transfer (DEIT), estimations indicate that a saving of 3000 hours per year can be achieved when rolled out on an all Wales basis.

5 In addition, members of the Committee:

- i. agreed to recommend that all three Services enter the National Procurement Service;
- ii. noted that progress is being made in aligning the procurement contracts of all three Services and recognised the value and potential efficiencies to be realised through the all Wales Procurement Contract Plan;
- iii. noted that progress is being made with the procurement review work streams and endorsed the support from an external professional to ensure a transparent and true reflection of current systems. Terms of reference for the work-stream were also acknowledged by members;
- iv. noted the approved the proposed direction of work by the Training and Developing project team. Key areas of review have been identified to ensure best use of resources to maximise effective and efficient training and development thought the Welsh FRSs;
- v. acknowledged and endorsed the Community Risk Reduction proposal for closer collaborative working between the three services. Key areas of work include data sharing, better targeting and risk profiling and a consistent approach to evaluation and reporting across the three Services. Members also acknowledged the business fire safety legal

services contract, which provides the Welsh FRSs with a consistent approach to legal enforcement of the Fire Safety Order (2005). All three Services were involved in the contract process;

- vi. noted the work being undertaken with alignment of legal services on an all Wales basis. A joint specification for an employment law legal services tender has been written and 19 responses have been received. Members also noted the recently awarded general legal services contract that includes the provision for both Mid and West and North Wales FRS to take advantage in the future;
- vii. noted the ICT scoping strategy. Due to the nature of this project an information gathering process will provide baseline information on the three Services current positions on; policy and strategy, assets and resources.

6 Efficiencies identified to date amount to £2,345,500 across the three Services over a period of 5 years.

Recommendation

7 Members are asked to note the information provided.