



AGENDA ITEM: 8

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

21 September 2015

FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK 2016 ONWARDS

Report by Dawn Docx, Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Purpose of Report

- 1 To inform Members of the Welsh Government's consultation on the draft Fire and Rescue Services National Framework.

Background

- 2 Under section 21 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, the Welsh Ministers must prepare and consult on a Fire and Rescue National Framework setting out Welsh Government's priorities and objectives for fire and rescue authorities.
- 3 The Welsh Government is consulting until 8 October 2015 on a new Fire and Rescue National Framework for 2016 onwards. This is available on the Welsh Government website.

Information

- 4 The draft Framework sets out the Welsh Government's vision, priorities and objectives for the FRAs in Wales. The National Framework was last reviewed and reissued in 2012. This new iteration of the Framework focusses on the changing context in which the FRAs operate and the challenges they face, the three main aspects of which are:

- an ageing population and the implications of this for the risk of fire;
 - a continued shift in emphasis from responsive services (firefighting) to preventative services (fire safety and fire prevention); and
 - severe medium to long term pressure on public finances.
- 5 The Framework specifies the following key objectives for fire and rescue services:
- continually and sustainably reducing risk and enhancing the safety of citizens and communities;
 - responding swiftly and effectively to incidents;
 - being clearly and publicly accountable for delivery and funding, manifesting the highest standards of governance;
 - maintaining downward pressure on costs and taking all opportunities to realise efficiencies;
 - working effectively with partners to improve efficiency and citizen and community well-being;
 - valuing and developing the workforce to the highest standards.
- 6 An email was sent to all Members on 13 August 2015 with a link to the consultation documentation on the Welsh Government website. Members are invited to submit comments on the consultation either at the FRA meeting or by emailing the Members' Liaison Officer before 28 September 2015.

Recommendation

- 7 That Members:
- (i) note the information provided, and
 - (ii) delegate authority to the Chief Fire Officer, in consultation with the Chair, to submit a response to the consultation on behalf of the Authority by the closing date of 8 October 2015.