

Report to	Fire and Rescue Authority
Date	16 September 2019
Lead Officer	Shân Morris, Assistant Chief Officer (Corporate Policy & Planning)
Contact Officer	Pippa Hardwick, Corporate Planning Manager
Subject	Draft Assessment of the Authority's Performance 2018/19



PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 To present for Members' approval a draft assessment of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority's performance during 2018/19 in relation to its:
 - (i) Improvement and Well-Being Objectives and its Equality Objectives; and
 - (ii) compliance with applicable Welsh Language Standards.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2 Good progress was made towards meeting the Authority's Improvement and Well-Being Objectives through the successful delivery of ten out of the eleven planned actions during 2018/19. The planned action of monitoring the effectiveness of pilot programmes was unfortunately impeded by the unanticipated closure of the pilot Community Assistance Team (CAT) project in May 2018.
- 3 Steady progress continued to be made during 2018/19 towards achieving the Authority's 2016-20 Equality Objectives.
- 4 Once the Authority's duty to publish relevant information has been discharged through the publication of this Annual Performance Assessment by the end of September 2019, the Authority will have complied with all of the Welsh Language Standards that applied to it in 2018/19.

RECOMMENDATION

- 5 That Members:
 - (i) approve the draft assessment of the Authority's performance during 2018/19 (subject to minor additions and corrections if required) for publication on the Authority's website by 30 September 2019; and

- (ii) note the Service's intention to publish a leaflet for general distribution that summarises the key elements of the assessment before the end of December 2019.

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE PANEL/AUDIT COMMITTEE

- 6 This report has not previously been considered by Members.

BACKGROUND

- 7 The Authority is required under various pieces of legislation to give a public account of its performance, progress and compliance in the previous financial year:
 - i. the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 requires the Authority to set and publish objectives that will contribute to improving local well-being and to moving Wales closer to achieving its well-being goals. Having set these long-term objectives, the Authority must take all reasonable steps to pursue them and to report publicly on the progress it has made after the end of each financial year.
 - ii. the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 requires the Authority to set and publish improvement objectives and to publish performance information annually by 31 October in relation to the previous financial year.
 - iii. the Wales Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 requires Fire and Rescue Authorities in Wales to produce a strategic equality plan and to report annually by 31 March on the progress it has made towards delivering that plan in the previous financial year.
 - iv. the Authority is no longer required to develop a Welsh Language Scheme but it is required through the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 to comply with Welsh Language Standards and to publish a report annually by 30 September on its compliance with those Standards.
- 8 For convenience, progress in relation to all four of the legislative requirements listed above has been combined within a single reporting document for publication by the earliest of the statutory deadlines - 30 September 2019.

INFORMATION

- 9 The opening sections of this year's Annual Performance Assessment report (Appendix 1) present information about the demography and geography of the area covered by the Authority. This provides context to aid understanding of the challenges of delivering fire and rescue services to the communities of North Wales. The Authority's work to support the well-being of communities in North Wales is also described.
- 10 The middle section of the assessment report provides a detailed account of the specific actions that the Authority undertook during the year to meet its two long term Improvement and Well-Being Objectives. Responding to recent recommendations from the Well-being of Future Generations Commissioner's office, a greater emphasis has been placed on including case studies in this year's assessment to demonstrate the real difference that the Authority's work makes to people's lives.
- 11 This middle section also presents information on the Authority's level of compliance with the Welsh Language Standards and summarises its work in promoting the Welsh Language and proactively encouraging a language choice for all staff and Service users. A summary of progress towards meeting the Authority's current set of Strategic Equality Objectives is also provided in this section.
- 12 The final sections of the assessment report include an account of how the Authority has met its commitments under the 'All-Wales Dwelling Fires Response Charter' and present performance indicator information that helps to compare activity levels and performance with the other Welsh Fire and Rescue Authorities.
- 13 Additional information at the end of the report details the outcomes of audit or assessment activity during 2018/19, and information on how to contact the Service for further information.

IMPLICATIONS

Well-being Objectives	This assessment describes the Authority's progress during 2018/19 in relation to achieving its adopted long-term well-being objectives.
Budget	None identified.
Legal	The combined document discharges the Authority's duties under: the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009; the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015; the Equality Act 2010 and the (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011; and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.
Staffing	None identified.
Equalities/Human Rights/ Welsh Language	Implications for the protected characteristics are covered within the draft assessment.
Risks	None identified.