



AGENDA ITEM: 15

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

17 June 2013

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 The NIC's aim is to implement improved arrangements for the strategic and co-ordinated delivery of collaborative work across the three fire and rescue authorities in Wales. Regular reports are submitted to keep Members updated on progress of the NIC's work together with any proposals which require the specific approval of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority.

Information

- 3 The NIC held its fourth meeting at Llandrindod Wells Fire and Rescue station on 19 March 2013 where the following issues were discussed.
 - 4.1 National Control Arrangements – since the interlinking of the three FRS' Control rooms was implemented in 2011, the All-Wales Resilience System has not only enhanced resilience but utilised the most efficient method of receiving and processing emergency calls incident management and resource deployment across North Wales. There have also been considerable benefits to the three FRS as a whole due to the closer working relationship and constant process of review.

- 4.2 National Control Arrangements – all three FRSs have successful call challenge processes to deal with hoax calls. However, the call challenge process varies in each FRS and a report had been produced to clarify current processes and identify possible changes together with savings achieved and future savings. It was noted that further work will be undertaken and that an all-Wales FRS Call Challenge Strategy is under development.
- 5 Operational Service Delivery and Resilience Update – this area of work accounts for the largest element of total spend on fire and rescue in Wales. The NIC is collating information from across Wales to aid budget development for future years in each of the three FRAs. Further analysis will be provided at the next NIC meeting.
- 6.1 National Collaborative Procurement – a proposed savings methodology process was presented to the NIC and it was agreed to adopt the Value Wales Savings Methodology (2011/2012) and any subsequent methods arising from discussion with the Public Sector Local Government in the Welsh FRS. This methodology is widely used by Welsh public sector organisation and provides a robust means of capturing savings.
- 6.2 Procurement Review – Members were informed about the various ongoing workstreams and noted the terms of reference for the NIC Procurement Strategic Review. Members approved the development of an all-Wales Procurement Training Seminar following completion of the procurement review.
- 7 Common and Specialist Services – it was agreed to commission a NIC standard cost modelling methodology to apply to all key collaborative area workstreams. This will ensure consistency in measuring and recording efficiency savings whilst providing a robust mechanism that can withstand external scrutiny.
- 8 Communications Strategy - it was agreed to adopt an NIC communications strategy to provide a mechanism to deliver clear and concise messages to key stakeholders.

- 9 Sustainability - Members agreed to adopt a framework for sustainability which will become the central organising principle in all NIC workstreams; this will assist the achievement of a long term economic, social and environmental wellbeing for each FRS in Wales.
- 10 Finally, it was confirmed that efficiencies identified to date amount to £2.6 million across the three Services over a period of 5 years. This figure is in addition to savings generated by each of the three FRAs through their individual budget setting processes.

Recommendation

- 11 Members are asked to note the information provided.