



AGENDA ITEM: 13

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

15th December 2008

WALES CHARTER FOR MEMBER SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT: UPDATE

**Report by Alwen Davies
Member Liaison Officer**

Purpose of Report

- 1** To update members on the progress of the Wales Charter for Member Support and Development.

Background

- 2** In March 2008, the Authority agreed to sign a statement of intent to apply for the basic level of the Wales Charter for Member Support and Development – an Approach for Fire and Rescue Authorities for submission to the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA). The wording of the statement of intent is as follows:
"North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority is committed to creating an environment of learning and development so as to equip members with the necessary level of skills and understanding to operate efficiently and effectively".
- 3** As part of the Charter process the Authority is required to undertake a review of its business arrangements and to assess members' development needs. Questionnaires have been sent to all Members and to date 15 have been returned. In order to ensure that development events provided for members are effective at meeting all needs, the Service needs responses from all its Authority members.

- 4 Members have already undertaken a number of training sessions including the induction day, all-Wales member development conference, RRP briefing sessions as well as the training sessions held prior to the Authority meetings.
- 5 Officers have commenced compiling the evidence portfolio in readiness for the submission to the Association in support of its bid.

Member Support and Development and Community Safety Champions Working Group

- 6 The establishment of a Working Group is an essential element of Member engagement and also provides evidence for accreditation under the Wales Charter for Member Support and Development. The Community Safety aspect of the terms of reference for this group, reflect those of the Welsh Assembly Government's Community Safety Committee (CSC).
- 7 The following members have been nominated to the working group and a meeting will be held early in the New Year:

Cllr J V Owen
Cllr Trevor Roberts
Cllr Bill Roberts
Cllr Terry Evans
Cllr Sharon Frobisher
Cllr Brian Dunn

- 8 As part of this group and a further requirement of the Charter is that a member support and development "champion" is nominated. This role is to support the strategy and associated development programme and importantly promote all members' engagement with the training and development programme.

Next Steps

- 9** As with the previous Authority, Members of the champions' working group will be developed to conduct individual development reviews (IDR) with other members of their council within the Authority. From these reviews, a personal training and development plan can be created for each Member reflecting any training requirements identified.

Recommendations

- 10** That members:
 - 10.1** note the information provided;
 - 10.2** endorse the membership of the Champions' working group;
 - 10.3** nominate a "champion" to sponsor the strategy and programme; and
 - 10.4** complete and return the business development review form and the training and development questionnaire to the Member Liaison Officer by 31/12/08.