

REPORT TO:- Fire Authority Meeting

DATE: Monday 24th May 2007

SUBJECT: Peer Assessment Report (Wales Program for Improvement Operational Assurance of Service Delivery)

SUMMARY: The Peer Assessment Team comprising of officers from North and South Wales Fire and Rescue Services, supported by Officers from the Wales Audit Office and Welsh Assembly Government visited the Service in March this year. The visit was conducted to verify the information supplied by the Service in our Self Assessment Document. The final report has now been produced by the Lead Assessor, Divisional Officer Richie Prendergast of South Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

IMPLICATIONS:	Implications will be determined by the Joint Risk Assessment (JRA)
OPERATIONAL RISK	
COMMUNITY RISK	
TRAINING	
H.R	
FINANCE	
I.T/COMMS	
EQUALITY & DIVERSITY	
HEALTH & SAFETY	
LEGAL	

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Authority Members note the contents and positive aspects of the report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Mid and West Wales F+RS Operational Assurance of Service Delivery Self Assessment 12th January 2007
Policy and Performance Board Paper dated 14th May 2007

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Peer Assessment Report

Fire Authority members have already been briefed on the Wales Program for Improvement (WPI), specifically the Operational Assurance of Service Delivery. The Operational process has now been completed.

The Peer Assessment Team (PAT) comprising of officers from North and South Wales Fire and Rescue Services, supported by Officers from the Wales Audit Office (WAO) and Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) visited the Service in March this year. The visit was conducted to verify the information supplied by the Service in our Self Assessment. The final report has now been produced by the Lead Assessor, Divisional Officer Richie Prendergast of South Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

The report is formatted to cover the 5 key areas of the initial Self Assessment Document;-

1. Risk Analysis
2. Prevention and Protection
3. Operational Preparedness
4. Call Management and Incident Support
5. Emergency Response

The report will now go forward to the Joint Risk Assessment (JRA) to form part of the Service improvement journey. The initial Joint Risk Assessment meeting with the Wales Audit Officer, Mr John Weston took place on the 8th May. The Assessment will take into consideration the improvement areas and set priorities and timescales for each.

The four Area Managers (Operational) have already started to action development areas identified in both the Self Assessment and Peer Assessment Reports by means of incorporating the issues into the 07/08 department business plans.

The Assessment process is planned to be debriefed in the coming weeks and recommendations on how the Operational Assurance of Service Delivery will be undertaken by the three Fire and Rescue Services in Wales will be made to the Welsh Assembly.