

## CYNGOR GWYNEDD – REPORT TO CABINET

<b>ITEM TITLE:</b>	<i>Response to the Public Consultation of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority</i>
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	<i>Cllr. Dyfrig Siencyn, Leader of the Council</i>
<b>RELEVANT OFFICER:</b>	<i>Geraint Owen, Corporate Director</i>
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	<i>19 September 2023</i>

### 1. Decision sought.

Approve the content of the Council's response to the Fire and Rescue Authority's Public Consultation.

### 2. What is the reason why the Cabinet needs to make the decision?

The North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority is holding a public consultation to gather feedback about the options offered in relation to how its emergency services are to be provided in the future.

The Council has been invited to respond to this consultation. Considering the impact that each of the options will have on the emergency services in the County, it is appropriate for the Cabinet to approve the content of the response.

### 3. Introduction and rationale.

#### 3.1 Background / introduction.

The North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority has been publicly consulting on the future of its delivery of emergency services in the region since 21 July this year. The documentation published as part of the consultation can be seen in Appendix 1. The consultation closes on 22 September and following internal discussions with stakeholders, the response in Appendix 2 has been compiled as the Council's feedback on the options under consideration by the Fire and Rescue Authority.

#### 3.2 Rationale of, and introduction to, the recommended the decision.

The document, "Right Place, Right Time, Right Skills" published by the Fire and Rescue Authority as the basis of the public consultation outlines the three options under consideration:

- i) Maintain a 24-hour response model at existing wholetime stations, with the fire stations in Rhyl and Deeside changing to a day crew duty system whilst three day-staff fire stations will be introduced in Corwen, Porthmadog and Dolgellau

utilising wholetime firefighters following the changes at Rhyl, Deeside and the Rural Wholetime Duty System.

- ii) A response model where Rhyl and Deeside fire stations change to a day staffing duty system as well as removing Wrexham's third fire appliance whilst maintaining one fire appliance staffed by wholetime firefighters and one appliance staffed by on-call firefighters. The redistribution of staff from Wrexham, Rhyl, Deeside and the Rural Wholetime Duty System will enable the addition of three day staffed stations at Corwen, Porthmadog and Dolgellau and a natural reduction in wholetime firefighter numbers of 22.
- iii) A response model where Rhyl and Deeside fire stations change to a day staffing duty system as well as removing Wrexham's third fire appliance whilst maintaining one fire appliance staffed by wholetime firefighters and one appliance staffed by on-call firefighters. The redistribution of staff from Wrexham, Rhyl, Deeside and the Rural Wholetime Duty System will enable the addition of two day staffed stations at Porthmadog and Dolgellau and a natural reduction in wholetime firefighter numbers of 36. In addition, it proposes to close five on-call fire stations in Abersoch, Beaumaris, Cerrigydrudion, Conwy and Llanberis, leading to a reduction of 38 in the number of on-call firefighters.

The three options recommend changes to the Fire and Rescue Authority's current arrangements in Gwynedd and the proposed response from the Council is a reflection of the anticipated impact on services in the County.

#### **4. Comments by Statutory Officers.**

##### **4.1 Principal Finance Officer.**

Cyngor Gwynedd's share of the Fire and Rescue Authority Levy in 2023/23 is just over £7.9million. That means a 14% increase would equate to an amount over £1.1million (and 10% a little under £800,000) which would have to be found from the Council's budget. To set a financial context, a 1% increase in Council Tax would generate around £900,000 extra income.

I have no further comments to add.

##### **4.2 Monitoring Officer**

No observations to add in relation to propriety

#### **Appendices List:**

Appendix 1 – North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority Emergency Provision Review.

Appendix 2 – Cyngor Gwynedd's Proposed Response to the Consultation.