


Report to	Executive Panel	
Date	15 December 2025	
Lead Officer	Assistant Chief Fire Officer Justin Evans	
Contact Officer		
Subject	Consultation on the Draft National Framework for Fire and Rescue Services in Wales	

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 To inform Members of the Executive Panel of the Welsh Government's consultation on the draft National Framework for Fire and Rescue Services in Wales (the Framework) and to seek endorsement of the proposed response from North Wales Fire and Rescue Service (the Service).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2 The Welsh Government has published a draft National Framework setting out strategic priorities and expectations for Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) over the coming years. The Framework addresses contemporary challenges including climate change, demographic shifts, technological developments, and cultural change.
- 3 The Service broadly supports the Framework and has prepared a comprehensive response, which includes constructive suggestions to strengthen its focus on:
 - Digital transformation and predictive risk modelling.
 - Workforce sustainability and cultural improvement.
 - Welsh language integration.
 - Environmental accountability and operational realities.
- 4 The response also highlights the Service's ambition to develop a new Training and Development Hub to prepare for future challenges.

RECOMMENDATION

- 5 That Members:
 - i) **Note the publication of the draft National Framework for Fire and Rescue Services in Wales;**
 - ii) **Endorse the proposed NWFRS response to the consultation, as set out in Appendix 1; and**
 - iii) **Authorise the submission of the response to Welsh Government by the consultation deadline of 17 December 2025.**

BACKGROUND

- 6 The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 requires Welsh ministers to publish a national framework to guide the work of Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs). The current draft framework, published on 22 October 2025, replaces the 2016 version and reflects significant changes in the operating environment, including the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower fire, climate change, and technological advancements.

INFORMATION

- 7 The draft Framework is structured around four key thematic chapters:
- Strategic Context: Recognises the increasing complexity of the risk environment, including climate change, demographic trends, and global security threats.
 - Resourcing to Risk: Emphasises data-driven, risk-based planning and the need for flexible, locally tailored service delivery.
 - People, Leadership and Culture: Highlights the importance of inclusive leadership, workforce wellbeing, and cultural transformation.
 - Corporate Issues: Focuses on governance, accountability, collaboration, and sustainability.
- 8 The Service welcomes the Framework's alignment with our Community Risk Management Plan and strategic priorities. Our response supports the Framework's core objectives and offers additional insights in the following areas:
- The importance of early recognition of digital transformation and public expectations around transparency.
 - Greater emphasis on predictive modelling and scenario planning.
 - The need for a shared articulation of positive culture across Welsh FRAs.
 - Clarity on environmental accountability for emergency services.
 - Stronger integration of Welsh language considerations throughout the Framework.

IMPLICATIONS

Well-being Objectives	The Framework aligns with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and supports NWFRS's contribution to national well-being goals, particularly in relation to resilient communities, a healthier Wales, and cohesive communities.
Budget	There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report. However, implementation of the Framework will influence future resource planning and investment priorities.
Legal	The Framework is issued under Section 21 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. FRAs are required to have due regard to its contents in discharging their statutory functions.
Staffing	The Framework's emphasis on workforce sustainability, leadership development, and cultural change aligns with NWFRS's ongoing organisational development work. Future implementation may require adjustments to training, recruitment, and workforce planning.
Equalities/Human Rights/ Welsh Language	The response highlights the need for stronger integration of Welsh language considerations and supports the Framework's commitment to inclusion, diversity, and equalities. NWFRS remains committed to the Welsh Language Standards and to promoting linguistic inclusion.
Risks	Failure to engage with the consultation process could result in missed opportunities to shape the strategic direction of fire and rescue provision in Wales. The Framework also introduces expectations that may impact future service delivery models, requiring proactive planning and risk mitigation.