

Extract of Draft Minutes of the Executive Panel Meeting held on 6th February 2012

5 AERIAL LADDER PLATFORMS

- 5.1 The report was presented to seek a recommendation from Members on the future strategic location of the Service's three ALPs. The decision not to replace the fourth ALP when it came to the end of its serviceable life had been made at the Authority meeting in October 2010 when it had been agreed to adopt a 30 minute attendance standard for ALPs across North Wales. Members were now asked to recommend to the March Authority meeting where the remaining three ALPs should be located.
- 5.2 Cllr P Jeffares highlighted the fact that the ALP located in Wrexham was the most used, and therefore he felt that it should be retained. Cllr W P Roberts felt that the Llandudno ALP should be retained due to the large number of hotels in Llandudno.
- 5.3 Cllr L W Davies, having considered the geography of North Wales and the statistics provided, was of the view that retaining the Bangor ALP was important due to Wylfa on Anglesey and also to provide cover for the area down to the Llŷn Peninsula. He also considered it essential to have an ALP in Wrexham due to the population as well as the industrial area it covered. Therefore, Cllr Davies felt that Members had to decide between Llandudno and Rhyl as these areas cut across each other and because of the A55 these locations are easier to reach than some other parts of North Wales. Cllr M Thomas agreed that ALPs should remain at Bangor and Wrexham and he stated that the third ALP should be based at Llandudno due to the number of hotels in the area; Cllr M Thomas therefore proposed Bangor, Wrexham and Llandudno as the three locations.
- 5.4 Cllr J V Owen was of the view that as Members had previously decided to alter the attendance standard from 20 minutes to 30 minutes, they should now let the officers decide the locations as they have the best knowledge and understanding of the situation.
- 5.5 Cllr G C Evans agreed with Cllr Owen's view and having considered the information provided in annex 1 of the report felt that Rhyl's ALP should be kept due to the industrial area along the coast from Rhyl to Flint and that Rhyl is a more central location. At Cllr M L Davies' request, ACFO Claydon led Members through the information set out in annex 1 of the report.

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- 5.6 The Chief Fire Officer reminded Members that hotels, student accommodation, houses of multiple occupation and other such premises are subject to stringent fire safety legislation and building regulations which means they have to provide escape routes without the aid of an external agent.
- 5.7 The Clerk commented that there would be a sense of loss and the sense of an increased risk in whichever area lost its ALP. However, the decision should be based on the response time and the areas with the highest risks; Members had been given the evidence to help them decide. The Clerk also advised that it was important that an operational explanation of the evidence was available to the public, together with the level of risk and how the risks would be managed, in order for them to be able to understand the reasoning behind the final decision made.
- 5.8 Cllr T Roberts asked for confirmation that an ALP located in Rhyl would cover the majority of PDAs (pre-determined attendances) in the Conwy county and vice-versa. ACFO Claydon confirmed that an ALP based in Rhyl would cover Llandudno but not the Conwy Valley and that having an ALP based in Llandudno would mean that Rhyl would be covered by the 30-minute standard but not the Talacre and Mostyn Dock areas.
- 5.9 The Chair asked Cllr M Thomas to repeat his earlier proposal for voting purposes. Cllr M Thomas proposed Bangor, Wrexham and Llandudno as the three locations. In favour: 3 (Cllr M Thomas, Cllr W P Roberts and Cllr G James); against: 6.
- 5.10 Cllr L W Davies then proposed Bangor, Wrexham and Rhyl as the three locations due to Rhyl being more central and also covering a wider population and a more industrial area especially towards the East. In favour: 6; against 3 (Cllr M Thomas, Cllr W P Roberts and Cllr G James).
- 5.11 **RESOLVED, by a majority vote, to recommend to the March Authority meeting, that the remaining three ALPs be based at Bangor, Wrexham and Rhyl.**