



AGENDA ITEM: 10

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

17th December 2012

SPECIAL APPLIANCE UPDATE

Report by Paul Claydon, Assistant Chief Fire Officer

Purpose of Report

- 1 To update Members on the current status of the special appliance fleet.

Background

- 2 Members may be aware that as part of the Risk Reduction Planning process, a review of the Service's special appliance provision was undertaken in 2003/04 with the long term objective of improving the Service's fleet.
- 3 This review led to a number of significant changes to special appliances and, as a consequence, a review of the design and layout of standard fire appliances was also undertaken and implemented.

Information

Water Rescue Unit (WRU)

- 4 Members will be aware that the Service has 4 WRU stations equipped with rescue boats. A fully equipped unit requires six personnel to operate a safe system of work.

- 5 WRU stations are currently using legacy 2 seat Landrovers converted from their previous use as off road fire fighting vehicles. When a WRU is required the fire appliance from the same station is also mobilised to carry the required crew members.
- 6 An outcome of the special appliance review was to specify a more suitable WRU vehicle capable of carrying all crew members, providing changing facilities; equipment stowage and a towing capability for the boats. This vehicle is currently being built.
- 7 Officers have been working closely with Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) colleagues in Wales and other agencies including the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) in developing an interoperable resilient capability that will form part of a National Asset Register.
- 8 The benefits of this interagency approach were realised recently during the flooding events in November with boat teams from the RNLI and the RSPCA being deployed alongside FRS teams at St Asaph under FRS control.

Aerial Ladder Appliances (ALP)

- 9 Members will be aware that all vehicles in the fleet have a specified operational life. For special appliances such as ALPs it is 20 years. The ALP located at Rhyl will reach the end of its operational life in 2014.
- 10 The process of designing, drawing up a specification, tendering, building and commissioning an ALP takes in the region of 18 months. This process to procure a replacement is well underway.
- 11 The Service's other two ALPs will be due for replacement in 2024 and 2028 respectively. Work to identify opportunities for closer alignment of replacements both within the Service and with FRS colleagues in Wales is on-going.
- 12 This work could potentially achieve economies of scale as well as reduce the number of times such a comprehensive, resource intensive and time consuming procurement process would have to take place.

- 13 The Chief Fire Officer continues to receive correspondence in relation to the ALP. A report was noted at the last Executive Panel meeting and is attached with the related correspondence in Appendix 1.

Rescue Pump (RP)

- 14 The latest design of a narrower wheel base fire appliance is now on the run at stations across North Wales. These 21 fire appliances are proving to be very effective and reliable frontline vehicles well suited for both urban and rural use. They have also been extremely well received by the operational crews utilising them.
- 15 The Service provided our FRS colleagues in Wales with the opportunity to evaluate the new appliance. The output from those evaluations has underpinned an agreement on an all Wales fire appliance design for future procurement.

Recommendation

- 16 That Members note the contents of the report.



APPENDIX 1

AGENDA ITEM: 9

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE PANEL

19th November 2012

AERIAL LADDER PLATFORM (ALP) CORRESPONDENCE

Report by Paul Claydon, Assistant Chief Fire Officer

Purpose of Report

- 1 To bring to Members attention recent correspondence received in relation to the provision of Aerial Ladder Platforms (ALPs).

Introduction

- 2 In recent weeks, correspondence has been received from Guto Bebb MP, Llandudno Town Council, Barmouth Town Council, the Chief Executive of Conwy County Borough Council and the North Wales Association of Town and Larger Community Councils. This correspondence is attached for Members' information as Appendix 1.

Background

- 3 At the Authority meeting on 18th October 2010 Members resolved to adopt a 30 minute attendance standard for ALPs across North Wales with the consequence that this would reduce the number of ALPs in the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service from 4 to 3.

APPENDIX 1

- 4 At the Authority meeting on 19th March 2012, with the pending departure of the oldest ALP from operational service imminent, Members resolved to locate the three remaining ALPs at Bangor, Rhyl and Wrexham.

Current Situation

- 5 All the correspondence has been replied to and copies of the replies are attached as Appendix 2.
- 6 All the replies pointed to the comprehensive analysis of the data related to the ALP, the considerations on the submissions the Authority received and the extensive deliberations of Members leading to the resolution.
- 7 All the replies have sought to reassure the recipients of the continued commitment of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service to deliver appropriate resources to an emergency by the quickest possible means on all occasions.
- 8 In relation to the response to Barmouth Town Council all of the individual questions have been answered and reassurances provided that the appropriate managerial action is being taken by our colleagues in Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service following consultation with that Service.

Recommendation

- 9 Members are asked to note the correspondence.