



AGENDA ITEM: 12

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

21st March 2011

SPECIAL APPLIANCE REVIEW UPDATE

Report by Paul Claydon, Assistant Chief Fire Officer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 This report is to update Members on the progress and implementation of the Special Appliance Review.

BACKGROUND

- 2 Members will recall that as part of the Risk Reduction Planning process a review of the special appliance provision was undertaken in 2003/4 with the long term objective of improving the Service's fleet.
- 3 This has 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 has been undertaken. This has resulted in a new narrower design of appliance being purchased for the on-going replacement programme.

INFORMATION

Technical Rescue Unit (TRU)

- 4 All frontline standard fire appliances now have the latest hydraulic cutting equipment giving an enhanced rescue capability. The four former Emergency Tenders, which were previously mobilised to all persons trapped road in traffic collision (RTCs), have been modified to enhance their capabilities.

- 5 Two of the former Emergency Tenders have been converted into Technical Rescue Units for use at RTC incidents involving large vehicles such as coaches, buses and large goods vehicles. These are based at Wrexham and Caernarfon.
- 6 One Emergency Tender has been converted to an Incident Support Unit (ISU) to provide welfare arrangements at large and protracted incidents and will be based at Mold.
- 7 One Emergency Tender has been utilised as a combined rope and animal rescue unit and is based at Colwyn Bay.

Dual Role Appliances (DR)

- 8 The Dual Role appliances are designed to provide restricted access capability for dealing with compartment (building) fires in hard to reach rural locations as well as off road capability for dealing with mountain/gorse/woodland fires.
- 9 The six new Dual Role appliances are now in the final stages of being deployed across the Service area, which increases the number of these versatile vehicles available to the Service up to ten.
- 10 Following experiences during the adverse winter weather conditions, the Service will maintain a strategic reserve of two four-wheel drive vehicles. This reserve will be sourced from those vehicles decommissioned as part of the Dual Role appliance strategy.

Aerial Ladder Appliances (ALP)

- 11 Following the Authority's decision to adopt a 30-minute standard for ALPs, a number of options are being formulated to fully explore the future locations for the Service's ALPs. These options will be brought back to the Authority before the end of the operational life of the fourth ALP in 2012.

Recommendation

- 12 That Members note the contents of the report.