



AGENDA ITEM: 10

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE PANEL

10th May 2010

AERIAL LADDER PLATFORM (ALP) ATTENDANCE STANDARD

Report by Paul Claydon, Assistant Chief Fire Officer

Purpose of Report

- 1 To seek a decision from Members on whether or not to re-visit the 20 minute attendance standard adopted by the Authority in relation to ALPs.

Introduction

- 2 ALPs are specialist appliances that, given the appropriate circumstances, provide access and egress for firefighters to upper levels of buildings, a safe working platform at height, large quantities of water via a monitor for firefighting and a limited capability for rescue.
- 3 The Service currently has four ALPs located at Bangor, Llandudno, Rhyl and Wrexham to meet the adopted 20 minute attendance standard covering these relevant risk areas.

Background

- 4 Since amalgamation of the Clwyd and Gwynedd Fire Services in 1996 to form North Wales the issue of aerial appliances has been put before the Authority twice at times of appliance renewal.
- 5 The first occasion was in 2002 and then, as part of the Authority's Integrated Risk Management Plan third year action plan "Maintaining Momentum", in 2005. However it was recognised on

both occasions that reducing the number of aerial appliances would require changing the current attendance standard adopted by the Authority from 20 minutes to 30 minutes.

- 6 A change to the standard was rejected in 2006 following public consultation, but Members requested that this issue be brought back to the Authority at the next renewal.
- 7 The ALP located at Wrexham fire station will reach the end of its serviceable life in 2012. This presents Members with an opportunity to review the attendance standard as per the Authority's resolution in 2006.

Current Situation

- 8 Members will recall the extensive information they have previously been provided with relating to ALPs via presentations on the background to the issues, the deployment history of this resource, the consequences on the revenue budget of a new purchase and the predicted cost of a replacement circa £600,000.
- 9 Maintaining the adopted 20 minute attendance times necessitates the provision of four ALPs. Adopting a 30 minute attendance time would reduce the requirement to 3 ALPs while continuing to discharge the Authority's duty to meet the current operational needs of the Service.

Recommendations

- 10 That Members consider the following options, either:-
 - a) endorse the current 20 minute attendance standard and as a consequence approve the procurement of a replacement ALP; or
 - b) recommend to the Authority a change in the attendance standard to 30 minutes and as a consequence the non-replacement of the ALP.
- 11 Should Members choose option b) they may wish to consider the appropriate locations for the remaining 3 ALPs as redeployment of one of the existing resources is likely to be an operational requirement to meet a newly adopted standard.