



AGENDA ITEM: 7

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

18th June 2007

LOCATING DUAL ROLE APPLIANCES – IRMP 3rd YEAR ACTION PLAN 2006/7

**Report by Paul Claydon,
Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Service Delivery)**

Purpose of Report

- 1.** To provide Members with further information in relation to locating dual role appliances. Establishing dual role appliances was part of the IRMP (Integrated Risk Management Plan) 3rd Year Action Plan for 2006/7 titled "Maintaining Momentum".

Introduction

- 2.** Members of the Executive Panel met on the 18th May 2006 to review the 39 responses received to the draft 3rd Year Action Plan following the public consultation period which concluded after an extended deadline of 8th March 2006.
- 3.** The Executive Panel recommended a number of amendments which included the section on Dual Role Appliances. These amendments were discussed at the Authority meeting of the 19th June 2006. The section on Dual Role Appliances was amended to state –



Introduction *(continued)*

This will see the introduction of six specifically designed dual role appliances being introduced into the Service with a further four appliances being modified to become dual role appliances. These appliances to be strategically located across North Wales to provide a 30 minute attendance standard (Appendix 1). In addition, enquiries will be made on the availability of financial resources that would, in the long term, enable the Authority, based on risk, to extend the provision of dual role appliances to other stations across North Wales.

4. The Authority resolved to accept the recommendations.

Current Situation

5. Following approval of the 3rd Year Action Plan the Authority received a letter of concern from Barmouth Town Council in December 2006, eight months after the extended consultation period. The letter was read at the Authority meeting of the 18th December 2006 and as a consequence Members resolved that further considerations on the location of dual role appliances should be undertaken.
6. Pending those considerations the locating of dual role appliances was suspended, although updating the four existing Pinzgauers to dual role capability continued as funding had been allocated and the financial requirements within the appropriate financial year needed to be met.



Considerations

- 7.** The original plan for dual role appliances came from the special appliance review which was instigated by the Authority's very first IRMP. This review considered a number of factors which included:-
 - Geographical location of special/secondary appliances; number, location and type of incident attended.
 - How often each appliance booked in attendance at incidents.
 - What use, if known, was each vehicle put to at incidents.
 - Time taken to provide a second appliance where required.
 - General availability and demand.
 - How often a second appliance was mobilised as a support appliance, with locations.
 - How many water relay incidents occur and their locations.
 - How many incidents have occurred where more than two hoses have been required and their locations.
 - How many occasions have 4 or more Breathing Apparatus wearers been used and locations.
- 8.** Based on the above information the Service's recommendations with regards to the adoption and location of dual role appliances was to provide as near as possible a 30 minute coverage across the whole of North Wales as per Appendix 1 shown in blue.
- 9.** This was based on the need to protect both life and the environment.
- 10.** The information used to make the recommendation has been reviewed and updated and there is no new information that would suggest the original strategy requires amendment.



Implications

- 11.** Barmouth Town Council advocates that the dual role appliance should remain in Barmouth and not be relocated to Dolgellau. The area of coverage in 30 minutes is shown in blue in Appendix 2 the purple boxes indicating the areas that Barmouth can cover within 30 minutes that Dolgellau could not.
- 12.** Appendix 3 marked with red boxes indicates the areas Dolgellau would cover in 30 minutes that Barmouth could not. The benefit of locating at Dolgellau is the 360° coverage. Barmouth's geography limits it initially to North and East coverage only, until it reaches Dolgellau.
- 13.** In the past six years since 2000 there have been 15 incidents in Barmouth in areas of restricted access, 6 have been false alarms good intent (FAGI) related to controlled burning in the open, 5 have been gorse or small rubbish fires in the open, 3 fire alarm (AFA) system faults resulting in false alarms at one premises and a fire in a derelict building that was started deliberately. An attendance was made to 14 of these incidents, a frontline appliance attended each one, and a secondary appliance attended 10, 4 of which were attended by Harlech and Dolgellau's landrovers.
- 14.** Therefore, in six years Barmouth's Pinzgauer attended 6 incidents in areas of restricted access - 3 AFAs and 3 FAGI, none of which represented a threat to life, a central issue for the Town Council.



Implications *(continued)*

- 15.** The Service recognises the very individual character of the town of Barmouth and as a consequence has carried out a considerable amount of Community Fire Safety work to ensure those premises with restricted access have been visited and the appropriate advice given with smoke alarms being either fitted or checked as required. This was acknowledged by the Town Council on a visit by Officers to explain the Service's strategy.
- 16.** Although recognising the individual character of Barmouth it is not unique in having areas of restricted access. Caernarfon, Bangor, Llanberis, Wrexham, Johnstown, Nefyn and Chirk all have more properties with restricted access within ten minutes of the fire station than Barmouth. However, the rationale for locating dual role appliances is not purely based on the number of restricted access properties, but rather on the overall risk profile giving the best possible coverage to all the residents of North Wales.

Options

- 17.** As a result of the considerations and their implications there are two options for Members.
- 18.** Option 1 would be to implement the original proposal to provide a 30 minute attendance standard for locating dual role appliances which would see the Pinzgauer currently located in Barmouth relocated to Dolgellau.
- 19.** Option 2 would be to locate the dual role appliance at Barmouth rather than Dolgellau which would take into account the concerns of Barmouth Town Council. Although the information in paragraphs 10 and 12 should be considered.



Options

- 20.** A third option was considered that would locate a dual role appliance at both Dolgellau and Barmouth. An additional dual role appliance would cost in the region of £120,000. There is no funding allocated for this option and therefore other projects would have to be removed from the Capital Programme to allow the purchase of an additional appliance. The coverage in this option is shown in Appendix 4 the black box indicating the relatively small gain in coverage in addition to the area covered by an appliance at Dolgellau only. This option is not realistic given the financial impact on the existing approved capital programme and the likely conflict with the Authority's duties under Best Value legislation.

Recommendations

- 21.** That members consider the information contained in this report and choose their preferred option.