



AGENDA ITEM: 17

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

17th March 2008

WORLD FIREFIGHTER GAMES

**Report by Chris Enness,
Deputy Chief Fire Officer**

Purpose of Report

- 1.** To inform Members of an international event happening in Merseyside with some organised activities taking place in North Wales.

Information

- 2.** This year Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service will be hosting the 10th World Firefighter Games (WFG). Four of the WFG events will be hosted in North Wales. The events are:

Event	Date	Venue
Kayaking	26/27 August	Mile End Mill, Berwyn Road, Llangollen
Sea Angling	26/27 August	North Wales Coast, sailing from Liverpool and Rhyl
Raft Race	27 August	Mile End Mill, Berwyn Road, Llangollen
Mountain Biking	2nd September	Coed Llandegla Forest Visitor Centre, Llandegla, Wrexham



Background

- 3.** The World Firefighters Games (WFG) was initiated by an American entrepreneur and a committee of international firefighters whose coming together led to the first WFG in Auckland, New Zealand, in 1990. This inaugural event was hailed a great success placing the WFG firmly on the international map, attracting thousands of athletes and their fans from all over the world.

- 4.** The second WFG were held in Las Vegas in 1992 and thus the stage was set to host this event on a biennial basis. 1994 saw the ownership of the event passing to a committee of firefighters in Perth, Western Australia, who hosted a successful WFG in this same year. The Western Australia WFG Governing Body has continued to drive forward this event which has seen the mantle of the games being hosted at the following international venues:

1996 – Edmonton, Canada
1998 – Durban, South Africa
2000 – Mantes, France
2002 – Christchurch, New Zealand
2004 – Sheffield, England
2006 – Hong Kong, China

- 5.** The Liverpool WFG 2008 will be staged from 25 August – 3 September and are self-financing with any surplus being reinvested in local charities. Liverpool is also set to be the European Capital of Culture in 2008, with WFG08 playing a major role in the Capital of Culture calendar.

- 6.** Liverpool's new multi-million pound waterfront Arena will become the Games Village for the duration of the WFG08 event. Numerous competitive events – ranging from chess to wrestling – will be staged at the £142 million Liverpool ACC (Arena and Convention Centre), offering visitors state-of-the-art facilities in which to enjoy the event.



Background *(continued)*

- 7.** The WFG will attract in excess of 5000 competitors from all over the world and, whilst the emphasis is on participation, competition is fierce and the last time the WFG were held in the UK (Sheffield) two British national records were broken.
- 8.** Further details of the WFG08 may be obtained by accessing the website: www.wfg08.com

Recommendation

- 9.** That Members note the information