



NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

18th October 2010

Aerial Ladder Platforms (ALPs)

Report by Paul Claydon, Assistant Chief Fire Officer

Purpose of Report

- 1 This report is to seek a decision by the Authority on whether to maintain the attendance standard for ALPs at 20 minutes or raise the standard to 30 minutes in line with the Executive Panel's recommendation of the 10th May 2010.

Background

- 2 The Service currently has four ALPs located at Bangor, Llandudno, Rhyl and Wrexham to meet a 20 minute attendance standard adopted by the Authority in June 2006 to cover these relevant risk areas.
- 3 The ALP located at Wrexham fire station will reach the end of its serviceable life in 2012. A replacement will cost around £600,000 in capital with an ongoing revenue impact on the budget of £50,000 per annum.
- 4 At the meeting of the Authority's Executive Panel on the 10th May 2010 it was unanimously resolved to recommend to the Authority a change in the attendance standard to 30 minutes and as a consequence the non-replacement of an ALP.

Information

- 5 At the Authority meeting of 21st June 2010 Members received a report on this issue and as a consequence resolved to receive a further briefing in early September.

- 6 This briefing took place on 3rd September 2010. The briefing was open to all Members and covered extensive information on the use, application and location of the ALPs. This information had previously been provided to the Executive Panel over a number of earlier meetings.
- 7 Members were able to ask a range of questions on this issue and were encouraged by the Chief Fire Officer to contact him if they required further information. There were no follow-up requests for information from Members.
- 8 This issue has previously undergone public consultation. Initially as an integral part of the Authority's review of special appliances in 2003/4. The review was one of the Authority's objectives published in its first Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) titled "Preventing, Protecting and Responding". Subsequently the issue again went through a full consultation process in 2006 as a specific objective of the Authority's third year IRMP action plan titled "Maintaining Momentum."
- 9 Attached as Appendix 1 to this report is a copy of a letter received from Llandudno Town Council on 30 September 2010. The contents of the letter are self-explanatory and it is attached for Members' information.

Recommendation

- 10 That Members having received the briefing and information on this issue note the Executive Panel's recommendation and decide to either:
 - a) maintain the current 20 minute attendance standard, or
 - b) adopt a 30 minute attendance standard for Aerial Ladder Platforms across the Service Area.



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Neuadd y Dref • Lloyd Street • Llandudno • Gogledd Cymru • LL30 2UP
Town Hall • Lloyd Street • Llandudno • North Wales • LL30 2UP

☎ (01492) 879130 • 📠 (01492) 879130

🌐 www.llandudno.gov.uk • epost/email: towncouncil@llandudno.gov.uk

Mr S Smith
Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive,
Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters,
Ffordd Salisbury,
St Asaph Business Park,
St Asaph,
Denbighshire,
LL17 0JJ



27th September 2010

Dear Mr Smith,

Retention of Ladder Platform, Llandudno

At a recent meeting of the Community Services & Tourism Committee, members discussed the consultation received from the Fire Authority on next year's improvement objectives and risk reduction proposals.

Serious concerns were raised at the meeting regarding the consideration being given by the Fire Service to reducing the number of aerial ladder platforms in North Wales from four to three.

I have been instructed to write to you that Llandudno Town Council would strongly object to any proposals to relocate its ladder platform from the resort. The Town is a major tourist and conference destination, with many high rise buildings and hotels, and the Council fears for the safety of the public should the ladder be moved.

Town Councillors recollected incidents where the ladder had been successfully used to rescue people from the dense number of hotels and were greatly troubled about longer response times to bring a ladder in from elsewhere and the resulting consequences.

The Town Council considers that it is vital the aerial platform is retained in the resort and would urge that this is taken into consideration when discussing this matter.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Tessa Wildermoth, MSc
Town Clerk

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Clerc a Swyddog Cyllid • Town Clerk & Financial Officer