



AGENDA ITEM: 7

**NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
EXECUTIVE PANEL**

6th February 2012

AERIAL LADDER PLATFORM (ALP)

Report by Paul Claydon, Assistant Chief Fire Officer

Purpose of Report

- 1 To seek a recommendation from Members on the future strategic location of the Service's three 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.

Background

- 3 At the Authority meeting of 18th October 2010 Members resolved to adopt a 30 minute attendance standard for ALPs across North Wales.
- 4 Adopting a 30 minute attendance time has reduced the Service's requirement from 4 to 3 ALPs while continuing to discharge the Authority's duty to meet the current operational needs of the Service.

Current Situation

- 5 The Service currently has four ALPs located at Bangor, Llandudno, Rhyl and Wrexham. The ALP located at Wrexham fire station will reach the end of its serviceable life on the 31st March this year and will be removed from operational duty.
- 6 Current locations provide a wide geographical spread across the relevant risks within North Wales.
- 7 Consideration of future possible locations has shown that locating an ALP away from the four current locations would be problematic and involve extra expense in either structural change to fire stations to accommodate an ALP and/or increased training costs of personnel to provide new operators.
- 8 As to where the 3 ALPs should be based, Members may wish to take the following information into account:-
 - 8.1 Table 1 at Appendix 1.
 - 8.2 Specialist appliances are located to cover the relevant risk across the whole of the Service's area not specifically that of their base station.
 - 8.3 The ALP based at Bangor covers the educational establishments of Bangor, the western extremities of North Wales and the Isle of Anglesey which includes the port of Holyhead and the nuclear power station at Wylfa. Bangor is a 10 hour day crewed station.
 - 8.4 The ALP based at Llandudno covers the tourist establishments of the town. The county of Conwy has the highest number of Pre-determined attendance (PDAs) including 437 premises in Llandudno with an ALP on the PDA. Llandudno is a 10 hour day crewed station.

- 8.5 The ALP based at Rhyl covers some of the most deprived wards in North Wales and a high number of houses in multiple occupation. There are 343 premises in Rhyl with the ALP on the PDA. Rhyl is a 24 hour shift station.
- 8.6 The ALP based at Wrexham is used more than any other across North Wales and the 30 minute area covers the most population over the eastern region of the Service area. Wrexham is a 24 hour shift station.
- 9 Attached at Appendix 2 is a collation of slides presented to both the Authority and Executive Panel in 2010 as part of the extensive briefings provided to Members. Appendix 3 is the covering report to the Authority relating to the presentations and a letter received from Llandudno Town Council.

Recommendation

- 10 Members are asked to consider the appropriate future location for the 3 ALPs and make a recommendation to the March meeting of the Authority.

Appendix 1

**Table 1 – ALP operational information
1st April 2010 to 30th September 2011 (18 months)**

	Bangor	Llandudno	Rhyl	Wrexham
Total number of mobilisations	22	35	55	79
Total number of incidents	20	35	55	76
Total number of exercises	2	0	0	3
ALP mobilised as per PDA	4	21	39	47
ALP mobilised on request	18	14	16	32
ALP did not mobilise (crew)	0	0	8	3
Total ALP in attendance	21	25	37	39
Total number ALP used	19	10	12	27
ALP used to rescue persons	0	1	1	2
ALP used to rescue animals	2	5	2	1
ALP used for firefighting	14	2	4	19
ALP used to make safe	3	2	5	5

AGENDA ITEM: 7

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.