



AGENDA ITEM: 9

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

15th October 2012

SERVICE FLEET PROVISION

Report by Paul Claydon, Assistant Chief Fire Officer

Purpose of Report

1 This report provides the Authority with information on Fleet provision within North Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

Background

2 The Fleet department is based at the Service's workshops in Llandudno Junction. The Workshops were designed in 1996 to provide a well-equipped modern open-plan facility.

3 The Fleet Manager has overall responsibility for the commissioning and de-commissioning, management, fuelling, maintenance, recovery and repair of all the Service's vehicles as well as a range of highly specialised and diverse plant assets which are catered for in-house.

4 The revenue budget at the Fleet Manager's disposal to discharge the department's responsibilities in 2012/13 is a little over £880k. Examples of pressures on the budget at present include the variances of fuel prices and exchange rates affecting vehicle parts.

Information

5 The department when fully staffed has a total of 14. This includes management and supervision, administrative support, specialist vehicle technicians, vehicle apprentices and equipment technicians.

- 6 There are 207 vehicles in the fleet, including:
- 66 fire engines
 - 21 specialist appliances
 - 4 rescue boats
 - 10 trailers
 - 4 minibus
 - 102 light vehicles (includes vans, contract hire vehicles and provided vehicles).
- 7 In addition to its vehicles the Service has over 1000 units of plant. This includes electrical generators, portable pumps, nozzles, positive pressure fans, ladders both heavy extending for firefighting and light access for fitting smoke alarms, etc.
- 8 The Vehicle Replacement Programme (VRP) is embedded into the overall management of the fleet. It provides an active and effective tool in assisting capital budget planning in the medium, mid and longer term. As part of the VRP the anticipated service life of a vehicle is dictated by many influences ranging from type of vehicle, use and rate of activity, any recognised remuneration package or conditions of service, working cycle and environment, availability of replacement parts and technical support from the original manufacturer.
- 9 The anticipated serviceable life of a fire engine is 15 years; the cost in capital of the most recent replacements was £230k per vehicle. A specialist appliance has a serviceable life of 20 years and capital costs can be as high as £600k depending on vehicle type. Rescue boats have a 12 year life, minibuses and trailers a 10 year life. The newly revised contract hire (lease) scheme which operational managers are obliged to adopt on promotion to the flexible duty system¹ to discharge their operational duties runs for 4 years. Workshop vans have a 3 year life. Principal Officers' vehicles also have a 3 year life owing to the high mileage rates accrued. These vehicles are provided to discharge strategic and operational duties and make up part of the remuneration package when taking up a Brigade Managers² post in the Service.

¹ National Joint Council for Local Authority Fire and Rescue Service – Scheme of Conditions of Service (Grey Book)

² National Joint Council for Brigade Managers of Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services – Scheme of Conditions of Service (Gold Book)

- 10 The values of all managers' vehicles are capped and adjusted annually. This is done by utilising October's Retail Price Indicator (RPI) figure each year provided by the Office of National Statistics which is then applied to set the vehicle ceiling from the 1st of January the following year.
- 11 The VRP is used by the Fleet Manager as a 'live' working document. While recognising the current financial constraints consideration is given to the costs and practicalities of operating older vehicles in comparison to new purchases.
- 12 The fleet department has a history of delivering an efficient and effective service. This is based on an ethos of providing quality, reliability, suitability for purpose, access to technical support, sustainability, user engagement and compatibility of technologies over vehicles and plant up to twenty years old.

Recommendation

- 13 That Members note the information contained within the report.