



AGENDA ITEM: 7

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE PANEL

8 February 2016

SERVICE ACTIVITY DURING RECENT FLOODING EVENTS

Report by Richard Fairhead, Assistant Chief Fire Officer

Purpose of Report

- 1 To inform Members of the recent activity undertaken by North Wales Fire and Rescue Service during flooding events across the region in December 2015.

Background

- 2 In December 2015 there was large scale flooding across the UK; there were several areas of North Wales affected which attracted national media interest and substantial political attention.
- 3 On the first weekend in December flooding affected areas adjacent to the River Dee in the Holt area of Wrexham, the River Conwy in the Llanrwst and Trefriw area and large areas in and around Beaumaris in Ynys Môn.
- 4 On the Christmas weekend flooding also affected locations surrounding Caernarfon in Gwynedd, coastal areas near Abergele and, for the second time in the month, the River Conwy and Beaumaris Castle areas.

Information

- 5 NWFRS handled 35 calls on the first weekend of December, attending 18 separate incidents. NWFRS water rescue crews attended 9 incidents and rescued 4 individuals from vehicles.

- 6 The highest profile incident attended during that weekend was in Beaumaris. The High Volume Pump, which is based in Llandudno, spent 19 hours successfully preventing the moat around Beaumaris Castle from over spilling.
- 7 The Christmas weekend was much busier; the Service handled 291 calls on Boxing Day and attended 45 separate incidents, 12 of which required rescues to be carried out from cars in flood water. Three people were assisted in evacuating their homes.
- 8 There were two larger incidents on Boxing Day where high volume pumps were utilised; the first was in Llanddulas where the high volume pump from Llandudno was used; the second event was in Beaumaris where NWFRS utilised the High Volume Pump from Newtown (Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service) under sections 13 and 16 arrangements of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. These agreements allow for mutual support from neighbouring fire and rescue services.
- 9 An added issue on Boxing day was that the flooding had made the A55 near Bangor and the A5 in Capel Curig impassable

Recommendation

- 10 That Members note the information contained within this report.