

AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT TO:	MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY
DATE:	31st JULY 2012
REPORT NO.	CFO/098/12
REPORTING OFFICER:	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
CONTACT OFFICER:	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT GROUP
SUBJECT:	COMPLEMENTARY CREWING OF SPECIAL APPLIANCES TO DELIVER IMPROVED RESPONSE AND RESILIENCE

APPENDIX (A,)	TITLE	LETTERS TO REPRESENTATIVE BODIES OVER COMPLIMENTARY CREWING
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ATTACHED – HARD COPY

Purpose of Report

1. To advise Members of the changes made by the Chief Fire Officer to the crewing of special appliances (Prime Movers and Aerials) under delegated operational authority to improve response performance and resilience.

Recommendation

2. That Members note the contents of this report.

Introduction & Background

3. As a result of the ongoing review of MFRA's operational response capability the Chief Fire Officer has identified an opportunity to deliver improved response performance and resilience in the staffing of special appliances through the introduction of complementary crewing. This model utilises the crew of a support pump to alternately staff a special appliance as a dedicated team. Where complementary crewing is used in place of retained crewing it significantly improves response times and affords additional resilience through having an

increased number of trained personnel available to staff the asset on an immediate response.

4. Adoption of this approach also addresses any appliance disposition issues resulting from the PFI project and the associated decant arrangements.
5. The implementation of the Operational Resource Centre (ORC) concept in 2004 saw the introduction of retained crewing on the second prime movers located at Kirkdale and Birkenhead. Each station was provided with two prime movers used to deploy specialist equipment contained within Pods mounted on the prime mover when requested at an incident. One of the prime movers was crewed on a wholetime basis and one of the prime movers was crewed on a retained basis. The retained prime mover was subject to up to a 30 minute delay in mobilising dependant on how long it took the retained driver to respond to the station following an alert.
6. Around the same time the Authority took the decision to change the crewing on the aerial appliances at Southport, Birkenhead and Eccleston from wholetime to retained. Whilst this measure delivered substantial staff savings it also introduced up to a 30 minute delay in responding for the same reason as with the prime movers.
7. Retained personnel providing cover are mobilised from home via an alerter. Alerter coverage can be affected by technical issues and this has on occasion led to further delays in mobilising.
8. The Chief Fire Officer has previously advised Members of his intention to introduce complementary crewing of the aerial appliances at Birkenhead and Liverpool City during the PFI demolition and rebuilds at Birkenhead and Southport (CFO/50/12). This will take effect in mid July. Following the move to the single ORC at Kirkdale 2 of the prime movers will be crewed wholetime and 2 will be complementary crewed with the support pump.
9. It is the intention of the Chief Fire Officer to relocate the retained Combined Platform Ladder (CPL) at Eccleston to St Helens in order that it can be complementary crewed with the support pump thus achieving a full transition from retained to complementary crewing of special appliances and all of the associated benefits in terms of response performance and resilience.
10. Following the relocation of the Incident Command and Control Unit (ICCU) from Birkenhead to the single ORC, Old Swan has been identified as the most suitable location from which to develop the incident command support capability. This is on account of its geographical location and the fact that the Incident Management Team (IMT) is already based at the location.

11. Vehicle familiarisation training and command support training has been delivered by IMT and Training and Development Academy (TDA) Command Department to all staff at Old Swan in preparation for the move.
12. The ICCU will initially be located and mobilised from the Kirkdale single ORC. It will be relocated to Old Swan as soon as practicable to ensure continuity of training can be more readily facilitated.
13. In order to achieve the relocation of the ICCU to Old Swan the dynamic reserve appliance currently located at Old Swan will need to be redeployed. This can be achieved by moving the appliance to either Allerton or Aintree. Both stations have over sixty members of staff that live within a two mile radius of each location.
14. As the Dynamic Reserve is utilised to add resilience at times of greatest demand rather than for immediate response there will be no performance impact arising from this move.

Equality & Diversity Implications

15. Equality Impact Assessments associated with the PFI work and the dynamic reserve have been carried out separately to this report and the outcomes remain applicable.

Staff Implications

16. The movements of personnel that are required as a result of the issues detailed within this report will be actioned in accordance with the transfer protocol.
17. Consultation will commence to terminate the retained contracts of the whole time retained personnel and the one community retained member of staff once all associated appliance moves and transfers have been completed.

Legal Implications

18. Consultation is legally required with regard to the retained contracts as detailed in the staff implications above.
19. The Chief Fire Officer has delegated authority to make the changes detailed within this report via the Authority's Scheme of Delegation as approved by Members at the 2012 AGM.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

20. The transition from retained crewing to complementary crewing removes the need for the 10 wholetime equivalent (WTE) posts allocated to the provision of retained contracts. It is the intention of the Chief Fire Officer to in the first

instance utilise this saving to ensure the operational availability of the designated support pumps through the use of voluntary additional hours.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

21. The transition to complementary crewing ensures an immediate response from special appliances which will lead to the more expeditious implementation of additional control measures to contribute to the safe systems of work for Firefighters at incidents.

Contribution to Our Mission – To Achieve; Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Fire-fighters”

22. As above.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

CFO/66/12 Impact of the Budget Cuts on the Dynamic Reserve
CFO/050/12 – Southport PFI Decant Arrangements
CFO/052/12 - Birkenhead PFI Decant Arrangements

***Glossary of Terms**

CPL - Combined Platform Ladder appliance
CPP-Combined Platform Pump
ORC – Operational Resource Centre
PFI-Private Finance Initiative
ICCU-Incident Command & Control Unit
TDA-Training and Development Academy
IMT-Incident Management Team