

**REPORT TO: Fire Authority**

**DATE: 24<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

**SUBJECT: Removal of Carmarthen Emergency Tender**

**SUMMARY:**

The roll out of rescue pumps in the Carmarthenshire area has rendered the Emergency Tender at W2 surplus to requirements. Furthermore, the age, condition and maintenance requirements require its removal from the operational fleet sooner rather than later. The vehicle is now beyond economic repair.

This paper makes the case for the vehicle's removal ahead of the more detailed review of technical rescue capability which has commenced. The removal of the W2 Emergency Tender is consistent with the Authority's rescue pump roll out strategy.

**IMPLICATIONS:**

OPERATIONAL RISK: reduced due to the rescue pump roll out.

COMMUNITY RISK: reduced due to the rescue pump roll out.

TRAINING: ET training requirement removed

H.R: None

FINANCE: Approx £30K annual savings in reduced turn out/attendance fees over 2006/07 revenue spend

I.T/COMMS: None

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY: None

HEALTH & SAFETY: Risk reduced due to equipment immediately available on rescue pumps

LEGAL: None

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Members note the W2 – Carmarthen Emergency Tender is removed from the operational fleet and being disposed of, with the equipment, in accordance with Authority procedures.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN THIS REPORT:**

RRP 07/10

Carmarthen Emergency Tender - Activity Statistics

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## **Removal of the Carmarthen Emergency Tender**

Members will be aware that the roll out of Rescue Pumps is on target and progressing extremely well. This is being done on a risk assessed basis and on a Command by Command basis. Currently the roll out is complete in Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, and most of Carmarthenshire (Pontyates, Kidwelly and Llandeilo are in build now). The Powys roll out/upgrades have commenced. 24 of the 72 front line appliances are now to rescue pump specification. 12 further units are in build/upgrade and are scheduled for quarter 4 2007/08.

One of the RRP objectives in the Authority's 2007/10 plan is to review the effectiveness of the Rescue Pump roll out and to start the process of introducing the Technical Rescue Appliances at strategic locations and the phase out of the current Emergency Tenders, many of which have a capability inferior to the latest generation Rescue Pumps.

The full review in its entirety is almost complete and the final location and capabilities of Technical Rescue appliances determined. This work is well in hand and will be the subject of a further report along with output specifications for the suggested capability.

Initial thoughts indicate that an upgrade of the current Emergency Tenders at Haverfordwest and Morriston, along with a new vehicle in Mid Wales, would meet the technical rescue requirements. However, it must be stressed that no firm conclusions have yet been reached.

### **The Carmarthen Emergency Tender**

The current Emergency Tender at Carmarthen is at the end of its useful life. The vehicle has become unreliable and expensive to maintain and the time has now come to remove it from the operational fleet.

The full review of Technical Rescue provision is almost complete and it is a reasonably safe assumption to make that it will not conclude that Carmarthen should be a strategic location for the Technical Rescue Capability. If it is, the current vehicle would be unsuitable for upgrade in any case.

The majority of Carmarthenshire, parts of Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion previously covered by the Carmarthen Emergency Tender, is now completely covered by Rescue Pumps, making the Emergency Tender redundant.

An analysis of incidents from 2005/06 compared with 2006/07 shows a 46% reduction in the incidents attended by the Carmarthen Emergency Tender even though Rescue Pumps were not in place in Carmarthenshire for much of the period in question.

In 2005/06 the vehicle was mobilised 236 times and attended 117 incidents. In 2006/07 the vehicle was mobilised 105 times and attended 63 incidents – 27 of which were in Carmarthen itself.

Of the incidents it did attend it was only actually used mostly for minor reasons such as cylinder transporting, lighting and small gear. The other occasions it was used appeared to be just because it was there.

As can be seen, the activity levels for the Emergency Tender at Carmarthen are extremely low, since in essence the Rescue Pump roll out has rendered it redundant.

The rescue capabilities of the Rescue Pumps are on a par with, and in some cases, superior to the "old" technology employed on the Emergency Tender.

Whilst accepting that the full review of the Emergency Tender / Technical Rescue Appliances is still ongoing there are pressing operational reasons to remove the Carmarthen Emergency Tender from the fleet due to its age and maintenance requirements.

As well as the fleet savings, crewing costs will be reduced since whilst the ET is crewed by 2 it requires a full alert to form a crew during night hours. The costs associated with this are circa £300 per call. Removing the ET will result in approximately £30K annual savings in reduced turn out/attendance fees over the 2006/07 revenue spend.

As well as budgetary savings the removal of the ET would free up an appliance bay at Carmarthen station which could be utilized for other purposes.