

TAYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE BOARD**REPORT BY THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER****8 NOVEMBER 2010**

**ABERFELDY FIRE STATION –
USE BY TAYSIDE MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM****Abstract**

This Report requests members to approve a User Agreement with Tayside Mountain Rescue for use of facilities at Aberfeldy Fire Station.

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members approve a User Agreement be entered into with Tayside Mountain Rescue for use of facilities at Aberfeldy Fire Station.

2 BACKGROUND

An approach was recently received from the Tayside Mountain Rescue Co-ordinator based within Tayside Police asking if it would be possible to use accommodation within Aberfeldy Fire Station as a Mountain Rescue Post.

Mountain Rescue Posts are accredited by the Mountain Rescue Committee of Scotland who administer the funding of equipment held within the Posts. The current Post on Ben Lawers, which has been in existence since 1976, and comprises a storage facility for rescue gear – ropes and ancillary equipment, is being removed in conjunction with the demolition of the Visitor Centre there.

Mountain rescue in Tayside is undertaken jointly by the Police Search and Rescue Unit and Tayside Mountain Rescue Team, both of which are affiliated to the Mountain Rescue Committee of Scotland. This Committee has charitable status and is funded entirely through voluntary contributions. At present, it is working very closely with the Order of St John who are funding vehicles for all teams as well as Posts for those teams in need.

It should be noted that Mountain Rescue in Scotland is carried out on a voluntary basis by members of the various mountain rescue teams. Each of the teams is based in a particular area and has a specific area within which it is available to help. The teams do not only carry out the rescue of mountaineers. Their work is probably better described as “rescue where mountaineering skills are useful”. Examples of this include rescuing motorists stranded in snow or more recently searching for pilots of “downed aircraft” in the mountains.

3 PROPOSAL

As assessment of resources, incident profiles and transport links has been carried out by the Mountain Rescue Committee which has revealed that Aberfeldy is the most suitable location for a replacement Post and to this end a suitable space has been identified within Aberfeldy Fire Station for this purpose.

4 OPPORTUNITY

This is an excellent opportunity for the Board to provide support to a voluntary group within the local community and complies with our policy of making our premises available for community use. Further, in return, the Mountain Rescue Team have agreed to participate in specialist training and provide advice to Tayside Fire and Rescue.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In the circumstances, it is proposed that there be no charge to the Mountain Rescue Team for this accommodation.

There are no financial implications associated with this proposal. The storage facilities are already available within the existing building without any alterations being required.

6 CONSULTATION

The Clerk and Treasurer to the Board have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

7 CONCLUSION

It is concluded that facilities should be made available at Aberfeldy Fire Station to provide a Mountain Rescue Post for storage of rescue equipment.

S Hunter
Chief Fire Officer

Background Papers

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

Fire and Rescue Headquarters
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