

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

ADDITIONAL URGENT MEETING

1 AUGUST 2014

MINUTES

Present: Cllr Dave Hanratty (Chair) Councillors Les Byrom, Linda Maloney, Robbie Ayres, Peter Brennan, Jimmy Mahon, Barbara Murray, Tony Newman, Lesley Rennie, Denise Roberts, James Roberts, Tony Robertson, Jean Stapleton and Sharon Sullivan

Also Present:

Apologies of absence were received from: Cllr Roy Gladden, Cllr Ted Grannell, Cllr John Kelly and Cllr Steve Niblock

1. Preliminary Matters

The Authority considered the identification of any declarations of interest, matters of urgency or items that would require the exclusion of the press and public due to the disclosure of exempt information.

Resolved that:

- a) no declarations of interest were made by individual Members in relation to any item of business on the Agenda
- b) Agenda item 3 be determined by the Chair as a matters of urgency, and reason for calling this additional meeting, to consider Industrial Action Cover Arrangements following the release of additional dates of action by the Fire Brigades Union received 31st July 2014.
- c) no items of business required the exclusion of the press and public during consideration thereof because of the possibility of the disclosure of exempt information.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Authority, held on 24th July 2014, were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

3. Industrial Action Cover Arrangements

Members considered report CFO/086/14 of the Chief Fire Officer regarding industrial action cover arrangements, and the estimated financial and health, safety and welfare impact of the announced episodes of industrial action by the Fire Brigades Union in the ongoing national dispute over pensions, and considered the three options open to the Authority in relation to operational cover arrangements:

- i. Continue to deploy the maximum number of appliances possible based on the availability of resilience staff.
- ii. Reduce the numbers of appliances available during each of period of industrial action.
- iii. Refuse to accept partial performance of a shift

The Chief Fire Officer advised Members of his professional opinion and preference for option i.

Members stated that the Authority is doing everything in its power to maintain the safety of their staff and the community of Merseyside, during the ongoing national industrial dispute over pensions, which is having financial burden upon this Authority.

It was questioned why the Authority had been urgently called to meet, if continuing with the same procedures for cover as the previous period of industrial action. The Chair confirmed that the Authority had requested to be fully updated at each stage of industrial action to consider each period on its own merits

Resolved that:

- a) Option i. Continue to deploy the maximum number of appliances possible based on the availability of resilience staff, be approved
- b) This meeting be adjourned, and reconvene at short notice, if and when required, subject to further announcements in relation to the national industrial dispute regarding pensions.

Date of next meeting Thursday, 2 October 2014

Signed: _____

Date: _____