

**MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
ANNUAL MEETING
16TH JUNE 2011**

PRESENT: Councillors Tony Newman (Chair), Dave Hanratty, Jimmy Mahon, Steve Niblock, Colin Strickland, Robbie Ayres, Ted Grannell, Les Byrom, Barbara Murray, Vi Bebb, Denise Roberts, Leslie Rennie, Ian Lewis, Terry Jones, Eddie Clein and Andrew Blackburn
Independent Members Linda Phillips, Keith Pickup and Carol Roberts

Apologies for absence were received from:
Councillors Sharon Sullivan and Linda Maloney.

Prior to Business:

Welcome: Councillor Newman welcomed new Members Councillors Vi Bebb, Terry Jones and Ian Lewis, onto the Authority.

1. Election of a Chairman

Members agreed that Councillor Tony Newman be elected as Chairman of Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority.

2. Appointment of a Vice Chairman

Councillor Dave Hanratty - proposed by Councillor Grannell and seconded by Councillor Mahon.

Councillor Jimmy Mahon - proposed by Councillor Newman and seconded by Councillor Grannell.

Members agreed that both Councillor Dave Hanratty and Councillor Jimmy Mahon be elected as Vice-Chairman of Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Authority on 12th May 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

4. Preliminary Matters

(a) Declarations of Interest

Councillor Lewis declared a personal interest in relation to Item 10 – CFO/061/11 Appointment to Outside Organisations, in relation to discussions around affiliation with the Brussels Office – due to his employment.

All Members declared a personal interest with regard to item 11 on the Agenda - CFO/055/11 Members Allowance Payments.

(b) Additional Items

There were no additional items for consideration.

(c) Items requiring the exclusion of the press and public

There were no items on the agenda that required the exclusion of the press and public.

5. **Membership of the Authority 2011/12**
(CFO/054/11)

Members considered Report CFO/054/11 of the Clerk to the Authority, concerning changes to the Membership for the Authority for 2011/12.

Members Resolved:

- (a) to note the content of the Report.
- (b) to note that the appointments of Jimmy Kendrick (Liberal Democrat) and Martyn Barber (Conservative), ended in May as a result of the Local Elections.
- (c) to note that the appointment of Councillor Gerry Ellis (Conservative) ended following the Wirral District Council AGM.
- (d) to note the appointment of Councillor Violet Bebb (Labour) to the Authority by Liverpool City Council.
- (e) to note the appointment of Councillor Terry Jones (Conservative) to the Authority by Sefton District Council.
- (f) to note the appointment of Councillor Ian Lewis (Conservative) to the Authority by Wirral District Council.
- (g) To note that the Political Balance of the Authority now being 13 Labour Members, 3 Conservative Members and 2 Liberal Democrat Members.
- (h) To note that Membership of the Authority for 2011/12 be as follows:

Knowsley District Council - 2 Members:

Councillor Ted Grannell (Labour)
Councillor Tony Newman (Labour)

Liverpool City Council - 6 Members:

Councillor Vi Bebb (Labour)
Councillor Dave Hanratty (Labour)
Councillor Barbara Murray (Labour)
Councillor Colin Strickland (Labour)
Councillor Sharon Sullivan (Labour)
Councillor Eddie Clein (Liberal Democrat)

Sefton District Council - 3 Members:

Les Byrom (Labour)
Jimmy Mahon (Labour)
Terry Jones (Conservative)
Andrew Blackburn (Liberal Democrat)

St Helens District Council - 2 Members:

Robbie Ayres (Labour)
Linda Maloney (Labour)

Wirral District Council - 4 Members:

Steve Niblock (Labour)
Denise Roberts (Labour)
Ian Lewis (Conservative)
Leslie Rennie (Conservative)

6. The Authorities Constitution For 2011/12
(CFO/065/11)

Members considered Report CFO/065/11 of the Clerk to the Authority/
Monitoring Officer concerning the revised Constitution for the Merseyside Fire
& Rescue Authority 2011/12.

Members Resolved:

- (a) that the draft amended constitution 2011/12 be approved.
- (b) that the quorum of the Strategic Assets Committee and the Community Protection Committee, be increased from 2 Members to 5 Members.
- (c) that all Members be supplied with a bound copy the final approved Constitution.

7. Structure of The Authority 2011/12
(CFO/058/11)

Members considered Report CFO/058/11 of the Clerk to the
Authority/Monitoring Officer regarding the Structure of The Authority.

Members Resolved:

(a) to approve continuation of the existing Authority Structure and agreed to appoint the following Committees until the time of the Annual Meeting 2012 with the number of voting Members as follows:

- (i) An Executive Leadership Board of 5 Members.
- (ii) An Appeals Committee of 5 Members.
- (iii) An Appointments Committee of 5 Members.
- (iv) A Community Protection Committee of 9 Members.
- (v) A Strategic Assets Committee of 9 Members.
- (vi) A Standards Committee of 3 Independent Members and 6 elected Members.
- (vii) An Initial Assessment Sub Committee of the Standards Committee of 1 Independent Member and 3 Members.
- (viii) A Review of Initial Assessment Sub Committee of the Standards Committee of 1 Independent Member and 3 Members.
- (ix) An Audit and Value for Money Scrutiny Panel of 5 Members.
- (x) An Asset Management Scrutiny Panel of 5 Members.
- (xi) An IRMP Scrutiny Panel of 5 Members
- (xii) A Community Safety Scrutiny Panel of 5 Members.
- (xiii) A Consultation and Negotiation Committee of 4 Members.
- (xiv) A Member Development Group of 3 or more Members.

(b) That the Authority allocates seats on the above Committees and Panels to Political Groups on the following basis:

- (i) Those Committees with 9 seats: 6 seats to the Labour Group, 2 seats to the Conservative Group and 1 seat to the Liberal Democrat Group.
- (ii) Those Committees and Panels with 5 seats: 3 seats to the Labour Group, 1 seat to the Conservative Group and 1 seat to the Liberal Democrat Group.
- (iii) The Standards Committee with 9 seats: 3 seats to Independent Members, 2 seats to the Labour Group, 2 seats to the Conservative Group and 2 seats to the Liberal Democrat Group.

- (iv) The Sub Committees of the Standards Committee with 4 seats: 1 seat to an Independent Member, 1 seat to the Labour Group, 1 seat to the Conservative Group and 1 seat to the Liberal Democrat Group.
 - (v) The Consultation & Negotiation Committee with 4 seats: 2 seats to the Labour Group, 1 seat to the Conservative Group and 1 seat to the Liberal Democrat Group.
- (c) that no alternate Members be appointed for the Committees or Panels for 2011/12, with Members being requested to contact Committee Services should they be unable to attend any meeting of any Committee or Panel to which they are appointed and advising which Member is to attend on their behalf.
- (d) that the same Chairs as in 2010/11 be appointed as Chairs of the various Committees and Scrutiny Panels, save for the Consultation & Negotiation Committee of which Councillor Byrom will now be the Chair.
- (e) that Membership of Committees and Scrutiny Panels be distributed to all Members once finalised and confirmed by the Group Leaders.

8. Dates of Committee Meetings 2011/12.
(CFO/059/11)

Members considered Report CFO/059/11 of the Clerk to the Authority/Monitoring Officer concerning proposed meeting dates for 2011/12.

Members Resolved:

that the proposed list of dates attached as Appendix A to this Report, which was compiled based on the Authority's structure as held in 2010/11, be approved as the Authority's timetable for 2011/12.

9. Questions on the Discharge of Functions
(CFO/060/11)

Members considered Report CFO/060/11 of the Clerk to The Authority/Monitoring Officer requesting the Authority to nominate Members of the Authority from each of the five constituent District Councils as the Member responsible for answering questions in their Council on the discharge of the functions of the Authority.

Members Resolved to:

- (a) nominate five Members of The Authority (one from each constituent Council) as the Member responsible for answering questions in their Council on the discharge of the functions of the Fire and Rescue Authority as follows:

Liverpool: Councillor Dave Hanratty
Knowsley: Councillor Tony Newman
Sefton: Councillor Jimmy Mahon
Wirral: Councillor Denise Roberts
St Helens: Councillor Linda Maloney

10. Appointment To Outside Organisations
(CFO/061/11)

Members considered Report CFO/061/11 of the Clerk to The Authority/Monitoring Officer concerning the outside organisations to which the Authority is currently affiliated, and whether or not these affiliations are to be renewed for 2011/12.

Members Resolved:

- (a) that further information be sought regarding the value of the Authority's affiliation with the Brussels Office and LACDE and a Report be brought back to Members prior to any decision being made regarding continued affiliation.
- (b) that with the exception of the above affiliations, the Authority agreed to continue affiliation with the organisations specified within the report.

11. Members Allowance Payments 2010/11
(CFO/055/11)

Members resolved that Report CFO/055/11 of the Clerk to the Authority/Monitoring Officer concerning payments made to Members in respect of allowances during 2010/11 be noted.

12. Scheme of Members Allowances 2011/12
(CFO/064/11)

Members considered Report CFO/064/11 of the Clerk to the Authority concerning the current Members Allowance Scheme.

Members Resolved:

- (a) that their previous resolution to maintain the 2010/11 allowances for 2011/12 in line with the public sector pay freeze in their budget decision, be reiterated.
- (b) to continue with the current Members Allowance Scheme.

13. Meetings with National Politicians at Party Political Conferences
(CFO/056/11)

Members considered Report CFO/056/11 of the Clerk to The Authority/Monitoring Officer concerning the possible attendance of Members at party political conferences in order to make Authority related representations.

Members Resolved that:

- (a) appropriate representatives of the political groups of the Authority be authorised to attend meetings with Ministers, opposition spokespersons and other relevant national politicians to be held at the location of their own party political conferences to discuss issues relating to the business of the Authority,
- (b) appropriate travel and subsistence expenses for such meetings be met but no payment of conference fees be made.
- (b) any Members attending such events, be requested to Report back to the Authority as to issues raised and responses and progress on information received.

14. Approved Conferences and Outside Meetings
(CFO/057/11)

Members considered Report CFO/057/11 of the Clerk to The Authority/Monitoring Officer concerning the approved list of conferences and outside meetings, and any revisions to the list.

Members Resolved:

- (a) that attendance at the Standards Assembly be removed from the list of conferences attached to the report.
- (b) that with the exception of the above amendment, the draft list of conferences attached to the report be approved.

Date of the Next Meeting: Thursday 30th June 2011