

**MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY  
FULL AUTHORITY MEETING  
12<sup>th</sup> MAY 2011**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: Tony Newman (Chair), Jimmy Mahon, Dave Hanratty, Barbara Murray, Colin Strickland, Ted Grannell, Les Byrom, Denise Roberts, Linda Maloney, Eddie Clein, Andrew Blackburn, Steve Niblock, Gerry Ellis.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Independent Member: Linda Phillips

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Apologies for absence were received from:  
Councillors Leslie Rennie, Sharon Sullivan and  
Robbie Ayres

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**1. Preliminary Matters**

The Authority considered if there were any declarations of interest, matters of urgency or items that may require the exclusion of the press and public because of the disclosure of exempt information.

- (a) No declarations of interest were made by any of the Members in relation to any matter of business on the agenda.
- (b) No additional items of business were determined as a matter of urgency.
- (c) The following agenda items required the exclusion of the press and public due to the disclosure of exempt information:
  - Agenda Item 18 Minutes of the Previous Meeting – Proceedings of Part 2 of the Authority Budget Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2011.
  - Agenda Item 19 Minutes of the Proceedings of the Appeals Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2011.
  - Agenda Item 20 Minutes of the Urgent Business Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

**2. Minutes of the Authority Budget Meeting**

The minutes of the Budget Authority meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

**3. Minutes of the Audit & Value for Money Scrutiny Panel Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Value for Money Scrutiny Panel held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

**4. Minutes of the Standards Committee Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

**5. Minutes of the IRMP Scrutiny Panel Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of the IRMP Scrutiny Panel held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

**6. Minutes of the Asset Management Scrutiny Panel Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of the Asset Management Scrutiny Panel held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

Members Resolved that a further Report be brought to the Authority regarding FireFit Hub MyPlace Lottery Grant Funding when further information is known.

**7. Minutes of the Community Protection Committee Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of the Community Protection Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

**8. Minutes of the Consultation & Negotiation Committee Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of the Consultation & Negotiation Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

**9. Minutes of the Strategic Assets Committee Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Assets Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

**10. Annual Review of Internal Audit**  
(CFO/050/11)

Members considered and noted Report CFO/050/11 of the Assistant Chief Executive & Treasurer concerning a review of the Internal Audit in 2010/11.

**11. The Annual Governance Statement**  
(CFO/049/11)

Members considered Report CFO/049/11 of the Assistant Chief Executive & Treasurer concerning the Authority's Annual Governance Statement.

**Members Resolved:**

- (a) to agree the 2010/11 Annual Governance Statement and
- (b) that the Chair sign the document on behalf of the Authority

**12. Treasury Management Annual Report 2010/11**  
(CFO/051/11)

Members considered and noted Report CFO/051/11 of the Assistant Chief Executive & Treasurer concerning the Treasury Management Annual Report relating to 2010/11.

**13. Local Government Association Subscription 2011/12.**  
(CFO/021/11)

Members considered Report CFO/021/11 of the Assistant Chief Executive & Treasurer concerning the costs of subscription to the Local Government Association for 2011/12.

**Members Resolved:**

- (a) to continue with the Authority's Membership of the Local Government Association.
- (b) that the annual subscription be paid in full.
- (c) that the Assistant Chief Executive & Treasurer be instructed to check how the formula is calculated for the proportion of payments.
- (d) that Members of this Authority lobby the LGA requesting reconsideration of the allocation of costs across the various types of Fire and Rescue Authorities and the disproportionate costs for Metropolitan Fire Authorities.

**14. Audit Commission Letter – Annual Fee 2011/12**  
(CFO/048/11)

Members considered Report CFO/048/11 of the Assistant Chief Executive & Treasurer concerning the Annual Audit for 2011/12 of Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority.

Members Resolved that

- (a) the content of the letter detailing the programme of work and reduced fee of £72,054 (excluding VAT ) for the Annual Audit 2011/12 be noted.
- (b) the fee of £72,054 for conducting the Annual Audit 2011/12 be approved for payment.
- (c) the Authority be updated as and when information becomes available regarding the possibility of the transfer of Audit functions from Local Government to the private sector.

**15. Attendance Incentive Scheme**  
(CFO/052/11)

Members considered Report CFO/052/11 of the Deputy Chief Executive & Deputy Chief Fire Officer concerning proposed changes to the Services Attendance Incentive Scheme.

Councillor Maloney moved to reject the proposals contained within the Report and proposed that the Service's Attendance Incentive Scheme remain unchanged at the present time to be reviewed at a later date.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Byrom and all Members present voted in favour of the proposal.

Members Resolved to retain the current Service Attendance Incentive Scheme until such time that it is appropriate to review it again.

**16. Fire Bike Pilot**  
(CFO/046/11)

Members were provided with a presentation by Group Manager John McCormack regarding an overview of the six month pilot scheme of the Fire Bike.

Members then considered Report CFO/046/11 of the Deputy Chief Executive & Deputy Chief Fire Officer concerning the outcome of the Fire Bike 6 month pilot scheme.

Members Resolved:

- (a) that the success of the fire bike pilot be noted.

- (b) to approve the use of the Fire Bike independently (Stage 3) as part of the Authority's small fire strategy.
- (c) that Officers report the carbon savings associated with the use of the Fire Bike within future Reports.
- (d) to note Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service's success in achieving an award for Fire Service Innovation at the recent Emergency Services Awards Ceremony.

**17. Voluntary Severance/Early Retirement Update**  
(CFO/053/11)

Members considered Report CFO/053/11 of the Deputy Chief Executive & Deputy Chief Fire Officer concerning an update on the Voluntary Severance/ Early Retirement Scheme.

Members Resolved that:

- (a) the report be noted; and
- (b) further reports be presented to the Authority as and when further information becomes available; and
- (c) the Authority shall make any decision regarding any possibility of compulsory redundancies if the need for such arises in the future.

**PART 2 – EXEMPT ITEMS**

*The following minutes contain EXEMPT information by virtue of paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 because they each contain information which identifies an individual.*

**18. Minutes of the previous meeting - The proceedings of Part 2 of the Authority Budget Meeting held on 17th February 2011**

The minutes of the previous meeting – Part 2, of the Authority Budget Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

**19. Minutes of the meeting - The proceedings of the Appeals Committee Meeting held on 17th March 2011.**

The minutes of the Appeals Committee meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

**20. Minutes of the meeting – Urgent Business Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> March 2011.**

The minutes of the Urgent Business Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

Date of the next meeting: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011