

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

18TH MARCH 2010

PRESENT: Councillors Tony Newman (Chair),
Jimmy Mahon, Lesley Rennie, Jack Colbert,
Ted Grannell, Denise Roberts, Betty Lowe MBE,
Martyn Barber, Ken Roughley, Gerry Ellis,
Jimmy Kendrick, Steve Niblock, Vera Best,
Eddie Clein, Karen Afford and Andrew Blackburn

ALSO PRESENT: Independent Members Carole Roberts and
Keith Pickup

Apologies for absence were received from:
Councillors Sharon Sullivan and Dave Hanratty

At the opening of the meeting, the Chair welcomed Dave Wright, retiring Clerk to the Authority.

The Chief Executive & Chief Fire Officer addressed the Authority in relation to the additional urgent item on the Agenda, concerning the Merseyside Fire Brigades Union response to Merseyside Fire & Rescue Services Integrated Risk Management Plan 2010-13, and requested Members for permission to withdraw Agenda Item 10 – Crewing Of Fire Appliances, in order to consider the feedback contained within the FBU response. The Report will be brought back to a future meeting of the full Authority.

The Chief Executive & Chief Fire Officer also provided Members with an update regarding the successful prosecution of an individual following a fire within the Liverpool District. The successful prosecution was the result of great efforts by the Service's Incident Investigation Team and great acts of bravery at the scene.

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 possibility of disclosure of exempt information.

- (a) There were no declarations of interest in relation to any items of business on the Agenda.
- (b) The Chair accepted the following item onto the Agenda for consideration by the Authority;

- Merseyside Fire Brigades Union response to Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service's Integrated Risk Management Plan 2010-13.
- (c) There were no items of business requiring the exclusion of the press and public because of the disclosure of exempt information.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Budget Authority Meeting, held on 18th February 2010, were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

Councillor Colbert raised concerns regarding queries and concerns put forward by individuals in relation to the Liberal Democrat Group budget proposal and in particular, the roles of Station Locality Managers and Advocates. Councillor Colbert advised that any individuals who have concerns can contact him directly to discuss.

3. Minutes Of The Special Authority Meeting

The Minutes of the Special Authority Meeting held on 25th February 2010, were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

4. Post Consultation IRMP 2010-13 And Service Plan Extract IRMP Action Plan 2010-11
(CFO/032/10)

Members considered Report CFO/032/10 of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, concerning the outcomes of public consultation on the Integrated Risk Management Plan 2010-13 and the Service Plan Extract, IRMP Action Plan 2010-11.

The Chief Executive & Chief Fire Officer provided Members with an explanation of the extensive consultation process which has taken place around this document.

Given the Fire Brigades Union late response to the consultation, it was agreed that Item 10 – Crewing Of Fire Appliances, be withdrawn from the Agenda for this meeting, in order for consideration and further consultation to be undertaken regarding specific issues raised within the response.

Members resolved

- to approve the IRMP for 2010-13 attached as Appendix A for publication.

5. Annual Service Plan 2010/11
(CFO/031/10)

Members considered and approved Report CFO/031/10 of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer concerning the publication of the Service Plan 2010/11.

6. MF&RS Equality Scheme 2010-2013
(CFO/041/10)

Members considered Report CFO/041/10 of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, concerning the final draft version of the Authority's new Equality Scheme 2010-2013.

Members resolved that:

- (a) the final draft version of the Authority's new Equality Scheme 2010-2013 be approved
- (b) the draft Scheme be submitted to the Performance & Audit Committee on 25th March 2010 for discussion as to implementation
- (c) the support of the representative bodies for the Scheme, be sought through a consultation process: and
- (d) Figures be provided regarding the number of ethnic minority individuals currently employed by the Service.

7. Amendments To The Contract Standing Orders
(CFO/034/10)

Members considered and approved Report CFO/034/10 of the Clerk To The Authority, concerning the new Public Contracts (Amendment) Regulations 2009 (The New Regulations).

8. Local Procurement Strategy
(CFO/043/10)

Members were introduced to Sharon Whitworth, the new Director of Procurement.

Members proceeded to consider and approved Report CFO/043/10 of the Executive Director of Resources, concerning the proposed Joint Local Procurement Strategy, Equality and Diversity in Procurement Strategy and Sustainable Procurement Strategy.

9. Asset Management Plans (AMP)
(CFO/046/10)

Members considered and approved Report CFO/046/10 of the Executive Director of Resources, concerning the Authority's key Asset Management Plans.

10. Crewing Of Fire Appliances
(CFO/044/10)

Report CFO/044/10 of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer, concerning the crewing of fire appliances, was withdrawn from the Agenda, following the submission of

the Fire Brigades Union response to the IRMP consultation, to allow further consideration and consultation to take place around some of the issues raised within the response.

Members Resolved:

- That the Report be brought back to a future meeting of the Full Authority, possibly 27th May 2010.

11. Procurement Of A Water Rescue Hovercraft
(CFO/047/10)

Members considered Report CFO/047/10 of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer, concerning the procurement of a water rescue hovercraft.

Members Resolved to:

- (a) note the improvements to the Service's resource capability.
- (b) note the concerns regarding risks to Firefighters at incidents involving the rescue of persons from mud, ice and unstable ground: and
- (c) approve the procurement of a Rescue Hovercraft to the specification contained within the Report in order to provide a safe system of work for Firefighters.

12. European Maritime Day "Exercise Manta"
(CFO/039/10)

Members considered and noted Report CFO/039/10 of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer, concerning a tactical exercise to be held on the River Mersey to celebrate European Maritime Day 2010.

13. MF&RS Bravery Award Medal
(CFO/033/10)

Members considered Report CFO/033/10 of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer, concerning the commissioning of a Bravery Award Medal.

Members Resolved:

- (a) to approve the commissioning of a Bravery Medal and certificate, to be awarded for acts of bravery by personnel or members of the public, who would not warrant a State or other award.
- (b) That any award be made at the discretion of the Chief Fire Officer based upon recommendations approved by the Service's Awards Committee.

14. Local Democracy, Economic Development And Construction Act 2009
(CFO/030/10)

Members considered and noted Report CFO/030/10 of the Executive Director of Law, concerning the enactment of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

15. Green Book/ Support Staff Savings
(CFO/045/10)

Members considered Report CFO/045/10 of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, concerning the outcomes of a review of Green Book staff within Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service.

Members resolved:

- (a) to approve the deletion and alteration of the posts outlined within the Report as the basis for consultation.
- (b) To note that these measures will be achieved without compulsory redundancies or any adverse impact on the response of front line services, and will meet the savings target of £150,000 set for Green Book staff as part of the Authority's budget requirement.
- (c) That they be provided with information and figures regarding voluntary redundancies.

16. Fire Fit Sports Camps (WFG Legacy)
(CFO/049/10)

Members were provided with a Presentation by Charlie Kavanagh from the Fire Support Network, regarding Fire Fit Sports Camps.

Members proceeded to consider Report CFO/049/10 of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, concerning the proposal to hold Fire Fit Sports Camps.

Members Resolved:

- (a) to approve the one year programme of Fire Fit Sports Camps to be provided by the Fire Support Network under a contract; and
- (b) to include Table Tennis as one of the activities within the programme.

Following the conclusion of business on the Agenda, Members of the Authority presented Dave Wright, retiring Clerk To The Authority, with gifts on behalf of both the Authority as a whole and on behalf of each of the political groups.

The Chief Executive & Chief Fire Officer also presented Dave with a gift on behalf of Officers and the Service.

Members and Officers also expressed their thanks and gratitude to Dave for his work and service to the Authority, throughout his appointment.

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 27th May 2010.