

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

27th MAY 2010

PRESENT: Councillors Tony Newman (Chair),
Jimmy Mahon, Dave Hanratty, Sharon Sullivan,
Ted Grannell, Denise Roberts, Lesley Rennie,
Martyn Barber, Betty Lowe, Gerry Ellis, Steve Niblock,
Eddie Clein, Jimmy Kendrick, Vera Best, Karen Afford
and Andrew Blackburn.

ALSO PRESENT: Independent Members Carole Roberts and
Linda Phillips.

At the opening of the meeting, the Chair expressed his thanks to Councillors Karen Afford, Vera Best and Betty Lowe for all the hard work they have undertaken during their time as Elected Members, as they have not been re-appointed to the Authority for 2010/2011. He also wished to note his thanks to Jack Colbert and Ken Roughley for the hard work they have carried out on the Authority's behalf since their appointments began.

All five former Members will be formally invited to the Annual Meeting of the Authority on 9th June 2010 where a presentation will be made.

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) Declarations of interest were made in relation to the following items of business on the agenda:
- **Agenda Item 9** - Minutes of the Asset Management and Shared Services Committee, held 29th April 2010. Councillor Jimmy Mahon declared a personal interest in this item as he sits on the Planning Committee for Sefton Council.
 - **Agenda Item 13** - Annual Review of Internal Audit,
Agenda Item 14 - Annual Governance Statement, and
Agenda Item 15 - Annual Audit Plans 2010/2011.

Councillors Vera Best, Eddie Clein, Karen Afford, Jimmy Kendrick, Dave Hanratty and Sharon Sullivan all declared a personal interest in relation to these items as they are Liverpool City Councillors, and Liverpool City Council is responsible for MF&RS's Internal Audit arrangements.

- (b) There were no additional items of business to be considered as a matter of urgency.
- (c) The following items of business required the exclusion of the press and public because of the possibility of the disclosure of exempt information:

- **Agenda Item 7** - Minutes of Appointments Committee, held 12th April 2010.

These Minutes contain EXEMPT information by virtue of paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

It was decided to consider Agenda Item 7 at the end of the meeting.

- **Agenda Item 26** - Engineering Centre of Excellence - Partnership Opportunities.

This Report contains EXEMPT information by virtue of paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Authority, held on 18th March 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

3. Minutes of the Regional, Economic Development and Sustainability Committee, held on 1st October 2009

The Minutes of the Regional, Economic Development and Sustainability Committee held on 1st October 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

4. Minutes of the Management Board, held on 2nd February 2010

The Minutes of the Management Board held on 2nd February 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

5. Minutes of Stronger and Diverse Communities, held on 11th March 2010

The Minutes of the Stronger and Diverse Communities Committee held on 11th March 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

6. Minutes of the Performance and Audit Committee, held on 25th March 2010

The Minutes of the Performance and Audit Committee held on 25th March 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

8. Minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee, held on 22nd April 2010

The Minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 22nd April 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

9. Minutes of the Asset Management and Shared Services Committee, held on 29th April 2010

The Minutes of the Asset Management and Shared Services Committee held on 29th April 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

The Chief Executive & Chief Fire Officer advised that further negotiations with regards to Item 7 - Telecommunications Masts at Bromborough, Croxteth and Wallasey, had taken place and agreement had now been reached.

10. Minutes of the Community Safety and IRMP Committee, held on 29th April 2010

The Minutes of the Community Safety and IRMP Committee held on 29th April 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

11. Minutes of NW Regional Control and Firelink Committee, held 4th May 2010

The Minutes of the NW Regional Control and Firelink Committee held on 4th May 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

12. Minutes of the Standards Committee, held 25th May 2010

The Minutes of the Standards Committee held on 25th May 2010 were not available at this meeting and will be submitted to the Annual Meeting on 9th June 2010.

**13. Annual Review of Internal Audit
(CFO/075/10)**

Members considered and noted Report CFO/075/10 of the Assistant Chief Executive & Treasurer concerning the work of Internal Audit in 2009/2010.

14. The Annual Governance Statement 2009/2010

(CFO/076/10)

Members considered Report CFO/076/10 of the Assistant Chief Executive & Treasurer concerning the Authority's Annual Governance Statement.

Resolved that:

Members agreed the Annual Governance Statement and the Chairman signed the document on behalf of the Authority.

15. Annual Audit Plans 2010/2011

(CFO/077/10)

Members considered Report CFO/077/10 of the Assistant Chief Executive & Treasurer and approved the proposed Audit plans for Internal and External Audit for 2010/2011 contained therein.

16. Treasury Management Annual Report

(CFO/074/10)

Members considered and noted Report CFO/074/10 of the Assistant Chief Executive & Treasurer concerning the activities and performance of the Treasury Management operation in 2009/2010 in accordance with the CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy) Code of Practice.

17. MACC Infrastructure Refresh

(CFO/079/10)

Members considered Report CFO/079/10 of the Assistant Chief Executive & Treasurer concerning the risks associated with ageing technology in the control room and approved the measures proposed in the report that will ensure the mobilising system remains 'fit for purpose' and helps protect the community of Merseyside.

Resolved that:

Members approved the partial refresh of certain components of its Mobilising and Communication Centre (MACC) service infrastructure which would require a £117k increase in the Capital Programme.

18. Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service Equality Scheme 2010-2013

(CFO/091/10)

Members considered Report CFO/091/10 of the Deputy Chief Executive & Deputy Chief Fire Officer concerning the publication of the MF&RS Equality Scheme 2010-2013.

Resolved that:

- (a) Members approved the text of the MF&RS Equality Scheme 2010-2013; and
- (b) Members approved the publication of the Scheme.
- (c) Members also expressed their thanks to the representative bodies for their positive feedback on the Scheme and for agreeing to a shorter consultation period in order that the Scheme could be finalised prior to the close of the Municipal Year.

19. North West Fire and Rescue Services Equality and Diversity Seminar
(CFO/099/10)

Members considered Report CFO/099/10 of the Deputy Chief Executive & Deputy Chief Fire Officer concerning attendance at the North West Fire and Rescue Services Equality and Diversity Seminar.

Resolved that:

- (a) Members noted the content of the report; and
- (b) agreed that any Members wishing to attend should inform a member of Committee Services in order that the necessary arrangements can be made.

20. National Resilience Assurance Team Urban Search and Rescue Review
29th-30th April 2010
(CFO/092/10)

Members considered Report CFO/092/10 of the Assistant Chief Executive & Assistant Chief Fire Officer concerning the report produced by NRAT (National Resilience Assurance Team) following the review, and noted the findings outlined therein.

21. Exercise Orion
(CFO/096/10)

Members considered and noted Report CFO/096/10 of the Chief Executive & Chief Fire Officer concerning the large scale live training exercise, 'Exercise Orion', which is to be held between 7th and 8th September 2010, and accepted the open invitation to all Members to attend should they wish.

22. Revised Environmental Policy
(CFO/093/10)

Members considered Report CFO/093/10 of the Assistant Chief Executive & Treasurer concerning the revised Environmental Policy of Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority.

Resolved that:

- (a) Members approved the revised Environmental Policy of the Authority;
- (b) Members authorised the signing of the Policy by the Chair of the Authority and the Chief Executive & Chief Fire Officer, which was carried out at the close of the meeting.

23. Best Travel Plan Award
(CFO/094/10)

Members considered Report CFO/094/10 of the Assistant Chief Executive & Treasurer concerning the receipt of the Best Travel Plan Award which was awarded to the Authority at the Merseyside Transport Awards on 13th October 2009 during the Merseyside Transport Conference 2009.

Resolved that:

- (a) Members noted the receipt of the Best Travel Plan Award;
- (b) Members noted the successes achieved during 2009/2010; and
- (c) Members resolved to continue to support the sustainable travel initiatives of the Authority.
- (d) Members requested that a regular report be brought back detailing the outcomes and any savings made as a result of these initiatives.

24. Shanghai World Expo and World Firefighter Games 2010
(CFO/098/10)

Members considered and noted Report CFO/098/10 of the Chief Executive & Chief Fire Officer concerning the Service's attendance at the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai and the 2010 World Firefighter Games in Daegu, South Korea.

Resolved that:

One Elected Member should attend the events on behalf of the Authority.

Councillor Jimmy Mahon proposed that the Chairman of the Authority, Councillor Tony Newman (or his representative should he not be available), should attend. Councillor Eddie Clein seconded this proposal.

A vote was held:

For: 10 Members (Labour and Liberal Democrats)
Against: 4 Members (Conservatives)

It was resolved that Councillor Tony Newman (or his representative, should he not be available) should be invited to attend these events on behalf of the Fire Authority.

25. Chairing Skills for Members, 15th June 2010
(CFO/097/10)

Members considered Report CFO/097/10 of the Clerk to the Authority concerning the provision of training and development on chairing meetings for Members who are appointed as Chairs, Vice Chairs and Alternate Members to Chairs of Committees for the 2010/2011 Municipal Year.

Resolved that:

- (a) Members agreed the importance of having confident Chairs of its meetings and the contribution of this to effective decision making that leads to positive outcomes for our communities;
- (b) Members confirmed that all Members appointed as a Chair, Vice Chair, or Alternate Member to a Chair, to be determined by the Authority at its Annual Meeting on 9th June 2010 for the Municipal Year 2010/2011, will be required to attend the Chairing Skills Event on 15th June 2010.

26. Engineering Centre of Excellence - Partnership Opportunity
(CFO/095/10)

This Minute contains EXEMPT information by virtue of paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 A to the Local Government Act 1972.

7. Minutes of the Appointments Committee, held 12th April 2010

This Minute contains EXEMPT information by virtue of paragraphs, 1, 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Date of Next Meeting

Annual Meeting - Wednesday 9th June 2010.