

MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

30TH SEPTEMBER 2010

PRESENT: Councillor Tony Newman (Chair),
Councillors: Jimmy Mahon, Dave Hanratty, Ted Grannell,
Sharon Sullivan, Denise Roberts, Les Byrom C.B.E,
Linda Maloney, Robbie Ayres, Barbara Murray, Eddie Clein,
Steve Niblock, Jimmy Kendrick, Andrew Blackburn,
Lesley Rennie, Gerry Ellis and Martyn Barber

ALSO PRESENT: Independent Members Carole Roberts and Linda Phillips

Apologies for absence were received from:
Councillor Colin Strickland.

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 items onto the Agenda for consideration by the Authority:
 - **CFO/169/10 – Mobilisation of MFRA Assets By the Maritime And Coastguard Agency**
- (c) The following items required the exclusion of the press and public due to the disclosure of exempt information:
 - **Item 2 – Minutes of the Special Authority Meeting 21st September 2010 (Part 1)**
 - **Item 11 – Report from the Clerk to the Authority (including Part 2 of the Minutes of the Special Authority Meeting 21st September 2010)**

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

This item is contained within separate confidential minutes of closed section of the meeting.

3. CLG Consultation Paper: Local Government Finance Formula Grant Distribution
(CFO/159/10)

Members considered Report CFO/159/10 of the Assistant Chief Executive and Treasurer, concerning the Government's consultation paper on revising the Formula Grant distribution mechanism.

Members Resolved:

- (i) to note the consultation and potential impact on the Authority.
- (ii) to agree the proposed response to the consultation document for Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority.
- (iii) to submit a co-ordinated Merseyside response.

4. Audit Commission Report on Business Continuity Arrangements In Fire And Rescue Services
(CFO/160/10)

Members considered and noted Report CFO/160/10 of the Assistant Chief Executive & Treasurer, concerning the findings of the Audit Commission's report: "Business Continuity Management: The Fire and Rescue Service".

5. Firebuy – National Audit Office "Value for Money" Report
(CFO/140/10)

Members considered and noted Report CFO/140/10 of the Assistant Chief Executive & Treasurer, concerning the National Audit Office "Value for Money" report in respect of Firebuy.

6. Tender For Insurance Services
(CFO/157/10)

Members considered Report CFO/157/10 of the Assistant Chief Executive & Treasurer, concerning the tender for the Authority's insurance provision from April 2011.

Members resolved:

- (i) to note the recommendations of the report
- (ii) that a further report be brought back to the Authority regarding possibilities for the expansion of shared services into other areas.

7. Member Development Programme 2010 - 2013
(CFO/122/10)

Members considered Report CFO/122/10 of the Chief Executive & Chief Fire Officer, concerning the Member Development Programme for 2010-2013.

Members resolved:

- (i) to approve the revised Member Development Strategy and the attached Member Development Programme for 2010-2013.
- (ii) to approve the use of an Application Form for Members requests to attend conferences and provide feedback of events and conferences attended.
- (iii) that the possibility of collaborating with other local authorities regarding Member Training & Development activities be looked into further.
- (iv) that Officers attending training events and/or conferences are to ensure that they report back to the Authority regarding the event to ensure value for money.

8. Update Consultation & Negotiation Panel – Industrial Relations Framework
(CFO/155/10)

Members considered Report CFO/155/10 of the Deputy Chief Executive & Deputy Chief Fire Officer, concerning an Industrial Relations Framework and amendment to the name and terms of reference of the Consultation & Negotiation Panel.

Members resolved:

- (i) to agree the revised Terms of Reference and change in name for the Consultation & Negotiation Committee (CNC).
- (ii) to note the outcome of the consultation with recognised trade unions regarding the amended Terms of Reference and the draft industrial relations framework.
- (iii) to refer the conclusion of the consultation process regarding the industrial relations framework to the respective Joint Secretaries and other recognised trade union representatives, with the outcome being reported to the next meeting of the CNC on the 13th October 2010.
- (iv) that in future, EXEMPT reports should include a paragraph to explain the reason for the exemption.

9. Future Of The North West Regional Management Board
(CFO/167/10)

Members considered Report CFO/167/10 of the Clerk to the Authority, concerning the future of the North West Regional Management Board.

Members resolved to approve the recommendations of the Regional Management Board (RMB) on 22nd September 2010 to restructure the RMB to include the Chair, a Vice-Chair and the Lead Opposition Spokesperson of each of the Fire and Rescue Authorities in the North West.

Additional Urgent Item:

10. Mobilisation Of MFRS Assets By The Maritime And Coastguard Agency (MCA)
(CFO/169/10)

Members considered Report CFO/169/10 of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer, concerning the current situation regarding the refusal of MCA to adhere to the spirit and intent of the Memorandum of Understanding in place.

Members resolved:

- (i) that the Chair of the Authority send a letter to the national leadership of the MCA regarding their continual lack of adherence to the 2005 MoU.
- (ii) to direct MFRS Officers to immediately review the MoU with the MCA and the Police, in order to ensure that the MFRS declared assets are fully and properly utilised in all future incidents.

EXEMPT ITEM

11. Report of the Clerk to the Authority (Including Part 2 Of Minutes of the Special Authority Meeting 21st September 2010)
(CFO/164/10)

This Minute is EXEMPT under paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972

Date of Next Meeting

16th December 2010