

**MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**SPECIAL AUTHORITY MEETING**

**22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2012**

**MINUTES**

**Present:**

Councillors Dave Hanratty (Chair), Les Byrom, Linda Maloney, Robbie Ayres, Vi Bebb, Darren Dodd, Roy Gladden, John Kelly, Jimmy Mahon, Barbara Murray, Tony Newman, Steve Niblock, Denise Roberts, Andrew Blackburn, Pat Moloney, and Lesley Rennie

**Apologies for absence were received from:**

Councillors Sharon Sullivan and Ted Grannell

**1. Preliminary Matters**

- a) The following declarations of interest were made by Members in relation to items of business:
  - Councillors Les Byrom, Jimmy Mahon, Andrew Blackburn and John Kelly declared personal interests in relation to Agenda Item 3 – *Merseyside Joint Control Centre (JCC) Approval To Proceed*, due to being Members of Sefton Council.
  - In addition, Councillor Jimmy Mahon also declared a personal interest in relation to this item due to being a Member of Sefton Councils Planning Committee.
- b) There were no additional items of business that were determined by the chair to be considered as a matter of urgency
- c) The following items required the absence of the press and public due to the possibility of disclosure of exempt information.
  - Item 6 – Part 2 EXEMPT Minutes of the Previous Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> October 2012

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – Part 1**

Part 1 of the Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2012, were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

In relation to Item 15 on the Minutes of the last meeting concerning attendance at the LGA Conference – *Rising to the Challenge: Developing New Community Safety Business Models In The Public Sector*, it was noted that no nominations for attendance had been received and as this was not deemed to be directly relevant to Fire Authorities, Members confirmed that there would be no attendance at this event.

### **3. Merseyside Joint Control Centre (JCC) Approval To Proceed** (CFO/150/12)

Members considered Report CFO/150/12 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning an update on the design work and costing exercise undertaken as part of the first stage of a two stage contract with Kier Construction Ltd for the Joint Control Centre (JCC) for Merseyside and the awarding of the second stage of the contract to construct the centre.

Members were also provided with a detailed presentation by the Deputy Chief Executive in support of this report.

#### **Members Resolved that:**

- a) The processes undertaken and outcomes of the pre-construction activities (1<sup>st</sup> Stage), in particular the proposed site layout, building design and construction costs, in the form of a "Maximum Agreed Price" (MAP), be noted.
- b) The continuation of the project to deliver a joint command and control centre with the Police and award of the second stage construction contract to Kier Construction Ltd, be approved.
- c) The Clerk To The Authority be granted delegated authority to conclude appropriate lease arrangements with the Police Authority.
- d) A further detailed report be brought back to Members detailing the North West Construction Hub's contract structure in regards to the use of local labour and an outline of the tender process undertaken in relation to the project.
- e) Dave Robinson and all staff involved in the project be thanked for their work and patience in dealing with the numerous changes required throughout the project so far.
- f) Thanks be to conveyed to Cllr Tony Newman in capacity as Chair of the Authority at the time when the Authority took the brave and difficult decision to not pursue the Regional Control Option and enter into a local solution.
- g) Wherever necessary, meetings of the Authority be held at other sites during the build process.
- h) The current Members' room be approved for use for storage during the building works.

### **4. Motion To Abolish The Executive Leadership Board**

Members considered a motion from the Chair of The Authority concerning the abolition of the Executive Leadership Board, due to the need to consider financial challenges facing all Public Authorities, including Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority over the coming months and years, and the need for transparency in decision making.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Linda Maloney.

Members Resolved that:

- a) The Executive Leadership Board be abolished with immediate effect.
- b) All scheduled meetings of the Executive Leadership Board be cancelled forthwith.
- c) The Authority's Constitution be amended to take note of this change.
- d) Complaints under the Members' Code of Conduct which currently may be referred to the Executive Leadership Board in certain circumstances, be henceforth referred to a meeting of party group leaders, to be arranged as necessary.

**5. Motion To Set Up A Task And Finish Group To Review Changes To Legislation**

Members considered a motion from The Chair of the Authority concerning a review of the Constitution and the Members' Scheme of Allowances in light of changes in legislation, as per the resolution of the Authority at its Annual General Meeting.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Linda Maloney

Members Resolved that:

- a) A Task and Finish Group be established to consider any proposed changes to the Members Scheme of Allowances.
- b) This Task and Finish Group also considers any proposed changes to the Members' Scheme of Allowances.
- c) The Task and Finish Group reports back to the full Authority at its meeting in February 2013.
- d) The Clerk to the Authority be instructed to draft Terms of Reference for the Task and Finish Group and assist with any research required by the Group.

**Part 2 – EXEMPT Items**

**6. EXEMPT Minutes Of Previous Meeting – Part 2**

***These Minutes were EXEMPT by virtue of Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972***

Part 2 of the proceedings of the last meeting of the Authority, held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2012, were approved as a true record and signed accordingly by the Chair.