

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
4TH DECEMBER 2012

MINUTES

Present: **Councillors Dave Hanratty (Chair)**, Les Byrom, Linda Maloney, Andrew Blackburn, Lesley Rennie, Vi Bebb, Darren Dodd, Ted Grannell, John Joseph Kelly, Pat Moloney, Barbara Murray, Steve Niblock, and Denise Roberts.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Councillors Robbie Ayres, Roy Gladden, Jimmy Mahon, Tony Newman and Sharon Sullivan.

Also present; James Sharples –Merseyside Brussels Office

1. Preliminary Matters

The Authority considered the identification of declarations of interest, any items of business which the Chair has determined should be considered as matters of urgency, and any items that due to the content ought to be considered to the exclusion of the press and public due to the possibility of disclosing exempt information.

- a) there were no declarations of interest by individual Members in relation to any item of business on the agenda;
- b) there were no additional items of business which the Chair determined to be considered as matters of urgency;
- c) there were no items of business which required the exclusion of the press and public during consideration because of the possibility of the disclosure of exempt information.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting on 22nd October 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

**3. Merseyside Brussels Office Update
(CFO/158/12)**

Members considered Report CFO/158/12 of the Deputy Chief Executive and heard a presentation from James Sharples from the Merseyside Brussels Office on all the work that has been done by that office that relates to Authority business.

Members considered the arrangements and procedures involved in bidding for funding from the European Union and highlighted a need to be better informed in future.

Councillor Lesley Rennie proposed that:

Working reports regarding future bidding opportunities be brought before the Social Growth and Localism Sub-Committee

Councillor Linda Maloney Seconded the Motion.

Resolved that:

- a) The content of this report and the presentation regarding the Merseyside Brussels Office be noted, and
- b) Future reports regarding bids for funding through the Merseyside Brussels Office be submitted to the Social Growth and Localism Sub-Committee for consideration.

4. Response to Cheshire Fire & Rescue Authority IRMP Consultation (CFO/159/12)

Members considered Report CFO/159/12 concerning a proposed Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority response to Cheshire Fire and Rescue Authority's IRMP consultation.

Resolved that:

The proposed response to Cheshire Fire and Rescue Authority's IRMP consultation be approved.

5. Financial Review 2012/13 April to September (CFO/160/12)

Members considered Report CFO/160/12 of the Deputy Chief Executive concerning the review of the Authority's financial position, both revenue and capital, for the period April to September 2012. The Authority receives regular comprehensive financial reviews during the year which provide a full health check on the Authority's finances.

Resolved that:

- a) the 2012/13 budget variations and allocation of capital reserves as set out in this report be approved; and
- b) the Deputy Chief Executive be instructed to continue to work with budget managers to maximise savings in 2012/13; and
- c) the potential favourable revenue position identified within this report be noted.

**6. Budget Principles
(CFO/123/12)**

Members considered Report CFO/123/12 of the Deputy Chief Executive concerning the adoption of Budget Principles that better reflect the challenges facing the Authority now and in the future following the outcome of a review of the Value For Money Principles. The principles were recommended by the Audit Sub-Committee, at their meeting on 22nd November 2012, for approval.

Resolved that:

The adoption of new Budget Principles to be used when determining future priorities for expenditure and savings be approved on the recommendation of the Audit Sub-Committee.

**7. Restructure of Community Fire Prevention Management
(CFO/161/12)**

Members considered Report CFO/161/12 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning the staffing arrangements put in place by the Chief Fire Officer to facilitate the management of Community Fire Prevention following staff reductions as a result of voluntary severance and voluntary early retirement.

Resolved that:

The restructure of the Community Fire Prevention Management team be noted.

**8. Introduction of an Operational Assurance Team
(CFO/162/12)**

Members considered Report CFO/162/12 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning the establishment of the Operational Assurance Team following a successful trial period.

Resolved that:

- a) the formation of an Operational Assurance Team within the Health & Safety function of Operational Response be noted, and
- b) the establishment of the current temporary Group Manager B post as the Health & Safety Manager through the conversion of the Green Book Health and Safety manager position be noted, and
- c) the establishment of the two current temporary Station Manager A posts through the conversion of two WMB posts be noted.

9. **Staffing Situation at the Marine Rescue Unit**
(CFO/164/12)

Members considered Report CFO/164/12 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning the measures being taken to address the current staffing issues at the Marine Rescue Unit.

Resolved that:

The measures being taken to address the current staffing issues at the Marine Rescue Unit be noted.

Close

Next Meeting: 20th December 2012