

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

9TH APRIL 2013

MINUTES

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

Apologies for Absence received from: Councillors Jimmy Mahon and Sharon Sullivan

1. Preliminary Matters

The Authority considered the identification of declarations of interest, urgent items of business, and any exempt items.

- a) The following declarations of interest were made by individual Members in relation to items of business on the agenda;
 - Councillors Hanratty and Rennie declared a personal interest in relation to **Agenda Item 3** "*Recommendations of the Performance & Scrutiny Committee 14th February 2013*", due to being Trustees of the Fire Support Network
- b) there were no additional items of business which the Chair determined should be considered as matters of urgency;
- c) there were no items of business which required the exclusion of the press and public during consideration thereof because of the possibility of the disclosure of exempt information.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 26th February 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

3. Recommendations Of The Performance & Scrutiny Committee 14th February 2013

Members considered the recommendations contained within the Minutes of the meeting of the Performance & Scrutiny Committee held on 14th February 2013, in relation to Item 4 – “Home Fire Safety Delivery Strategy Pilot Update” and Item 7 – “Corporate Risk Register Revision”.

In relation to the recommendations concerning Item 4 - “Home Fire Safety Delivery Strategy Pilot Update”

Members Resolved that:

- a) continuation of the model beyond the 31st March 2013, be approved.
- b) The establishment of a governance model for providing community safety services beyond the pilot, be approved.
- c) A learning Lunch and subsequent report be provided to the Authority regarding mutuals in use by other Fire Authorities across the Country; and possibilities for cost recovery initiatives moving forward via this method.

In relation to the recommendations concerning Item 7- “Corporate Risk Register Revision”

Members Resolved that:

- a) The information contained within the report and its appendices concerning both the detailed Corporate Risks and their scores, and the format of the revised Corporate Risk Register, be noted.
- b) The revised Corporate Risk Register, be approved.

4. Merseyside Brussels Office Update (CFO/038/13)

Members considered Report CFO/038/13 of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer concerning the latest developments with regards to Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority’s involvement with Merseyside Brussels Office (MBO).

Members Resolved that:

The content of the report be noted.

5. **Consultation Response – “Ending The Employment Relationship”**
(CFO/042/13)

Members considered Report CFO/042/13 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning the Authority’s response to the Department for Business Innovation and Skills consultation, in relation to “Ending The Employment Relationship”.

Members Resolved that:

The response submitted to the Department for Business Innovation and Skills consultation regarding “Ending the Employment Relationship”, be noted.

6. **Additional Occupational Health Responsibilities**
(CFO/032/13)

Members considered Report CFO/032/13 of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer concerning the new requirements placed upon the Authority that will be jointly discharged by the Occupational Health and Health & Safety Teams, due to the introduction of The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012; and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA) changes to the Large Goods Vehicle (LGV) License eye test standards.

Members Resolved that:

The additional burdens and costs imposed under the Asbestos Regulations and the proposed DVLA medical standards, be noted.

7. **Critical Incident Stress Management**
(CFO/045/13)

Members considered Report CFO/045/13 and associated Equality Impact Assessment of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer concerning the formal implementation of a Critical Incident Stress Management process within Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority, with the aim of improving the wellbeing support available to staff, particularly following attendance at critical incidents.

Members Resolved that:

- a) The introduction of a Critical Incident Stress Management process and the relevant training required to make this possible, be approved.

- b) The introduction of a Critical Incident Stress Management process within Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority, be acknowledged as promoting and encouraging positive health and wellbeing at work, creating an organisational culture where mental ill health issues are recognised, understood minimised and managed before they impact upon the wellbeing of staff.
- c) Critical Incident Stress Management is highlighted in the Fire Service Health, Safety and Welfare Framework 2012 document as a tool fire services should consider implementing to reduce stress, stating it can manage the effects of “staff turnover, sickness absence, ill health and erosion of competency, all potentially affected by critical incidents”, be noted.
- d) A Learning Lunch and further report be provided for Members in approximately 6 months’ time, to enable the Authority to review any action taken and monitor the effectiveness of the process.

8. Merseyside Joint Control Centre (JCC) Project Update (CFO/047/13)

Members considered Report CFO/047/13 of the Chief Fire Officer, concerning an update on the work streams associated with the JCC development at SHQ Bridle Road and to look ahead at the key milestones between now and practical completion, forecast for May 2014.

Members Resolved that:

- a) The content of the report and progress to date, be noted.
- b) Further information be provided to Members regarding key dates and the monitoring of progress against targets set for Kier construction in terms of the use of local labour and apprenticeships.

At the close of the meeting, The Chair of the Authority requested on behalf of Members that their best wishes be conveyed to both the Democratic Services Manager and her husband (a former senior officer with Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority), following his recent operation.

Close

Next Meeting: 7th May 2013