

# MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

25<sup>th</sup> January 2010

**PRESENT:** Councillors Tony Newman (Chair), Jimmy Mahon, Ted Grannell, Sharon Sullivan, Dave Hanratty, Jack Colbert, Eddie Clein, Jimmy Kendrick, Karen Afford, Vera Best, Martyn Barber, Lesley Rennie, Betty Lowe MBE, Gerry Ellis, Andrew Blackburn and Ken Roughley,

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Apologies for absence were received from:  
Councillors Steve Niblock and Denise Roberts

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## 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) Councillor Clein declared a Personal Interest in the following item due to being Chair of the Regeneration Select Committee within Liverpool City Council:

**Agenda Item 9:** WFG 2010 and the Positive Contribution to Sport, Friendship, Health and Wellbeing.

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

**Agenda Item 14:** Industrial Action

Prior to the start of the meeting it was decided to consider Agenda Item 6 - Presentation of a Petition, as the first item of business.

## 6. Presentation of a Petition

Councillor Jack Colbert presented a Petition to the Authority on behalf of Councillor Richard Clein bearing the following heading:

*"Lib Dems Say No to Fire Service Cuts" We, the undersigned, protest at the Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority decision to remove a Crosby Fire Engine without the consent or consultation with the people in Merseyside that the engine protects. We urge the Fire & Rescue Authority to replace the Crosby*

*Fire Engine immediately without which we believe we may compromise our safety.*

The petition was duly noted.

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

**3. Minutes of Reconvened Authority Meeting**

The Minutes of the reconvened meeting of the Authority held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

**4. Minutes of the Appointments Committee**

The Chief Executive and Chief Fire Officer introduced the Authority to the newly appointed Director of Legal Services, Ms Janet Henshaw, and the newly appointed Director of Estates, Mr Phillip Webster.

The Authority then considered the Minutes of the Appointments Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009, which they approved as a correct record and agreed for them to be signed accordingly by the Chair.

**5. Minutes of the North West Fire & Rescue Management Board**

The Authority considered and noted the Minutes of the North West Fire & Rescue Management Board Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

**7. Reinstatement of Fire Engines from the Training & Development Academy to their Former Locations**

(Verbal Report)

The Chief Executive and Chief Fire Officer provided the Authority with a verbal presentation confirming the reinstatement of the four Fire Engines in question to their former locations by exercise of delegated powers.

**8. Association of Metropolitan Fire & Rescue Authorities  
(CFO/001/10)**

Members considered Report CFO/001/10 of the Executive Director of Law concerning whether the Authority wishes to join the newly formed Association of Metropolitan Fire & Rescue Authorities, and if so, which two Members and alternates will be appointed to this Association.

Resolved that:

- (a) The Authority expressed a wish to participate in the newly formed Association of Metropolitan Fire & Rescue Authorities.
- (b) Councillor Grannell proposed that the Chair and Vice-Chair should be appointed to this association.
  - (i) Councillor Colbert proposed an amendment being that the Chair and the Liberal Democrat Leader be appointed.

Members held a vote on the amended proposal:

For:	6 Members
Against:	10 Members

- (ii) This amendment was not agreed and Councillor Clein proposed a further amendment, being that the Chair and Councillor Rennie be appointed to the Association.

Members held a vote on this second amendment:

For:	5 Members
Against:	10 Members
Abstentions:	1 Member

- (iii) This amendment was not agreed and Members continued to vote on the original proposal, being the appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority to the Association:

For:	10 Members
Against:	6 Members

Therefore, Members approved the appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority to the Association of Metropolitan Fire & Rescue Authorities.

- (c) Attendance at Meetings of the Association by the appointed Members (or the appointed substitutes) will be regarded as an approved duty for the purposes of payment of travel and subsistence allowances by the Authority.
- (d) Alternate/Substitute Members for those appointed to the Association will be considered and agreed at the Authority's Annual General Meeting, to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

**9. WFG 2010 and the Positive Contribution to Sport, Friendship, Health and Wellbeing**  
(CFO/002/10)

Members considered Report CFO/002/10 of the Executive Director of Resources, concerning the involvement of Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service employees in the World Firefighter Games 2010.

Resolved that:

- (a) the matter be discussed in more detail at the Budget Strategy Day, to be held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2010.
- (b) Following this, a further Report is to be brought back to the Authority for their consideration.
- (c) A further Report is to be brought back to the Authority concerning arrangements for Members attendance at the event, should the need arise.

**10. Co-Location of the North West Ambulance Service Hazardous Area Response Team with the Search and Rescue Team at Croxteth**  
(CFO/004/10)

Members considered and approved Report CFO/004/10 of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer concerning an update on the co-location of the North West Ambulance Service Hazardous Area Response Team with the Search and Rescue Team at Croxteth Fire Station.

Resolved that:

The Authority enter into an agreement for lease and subsequent lease with North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) Trust in respect of the re-location of NWAS Hazardous Area Response Team with the Search and Rescue Team at Croxteth Fire Station, entailing the provision of two new garage structures and alterations to the accommodation at Croxteth Fire Station on the Terms and Conditions as set out in the Heads of Terms, or as otherwise agreed by the Chief Executive and Chief Fire Officer on behalf of the Authority.

**11. Proposed Arrangements re: Firebuy**  
(CFO/007/10)

Members considered and noted Report CFO/007/10 of the Executive Director of Law concerning changes in arrangements in relation to Firebuy.

**12. Overhead Management of Catastrophic Incidents Course Delivered by TEEX**  
(CFO/008/10)

Members considered and noted Report CFO/008/10 of the Chief Executive and Chief Fire Officer concerning the course recently attended by the Executive Director of Resources and the Director of Safety Culture and Compliance.

**13. Firefighting Personal Protective Equipment**  
(CFO/010/10)

Members considered Report CFO/010/10 of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer concerning the award of contract for the supply of Firefighting Personal Protective Equipment for the North West Fire & Rescue Services (NWFRS) to Cosalt.

Resolved that:

- (a) The Authority noted that the award of contract to Cosalt by the North West Fire & Rescue Services has proven to be more economically advantageous than the National Integrated Clothing Contract procured through Firebuy Ltd.
- (b) The Authority confirmed that it will accordingly procure its Firefighting Personal Protective Equipment under this agreement, rather than the National Integrated Clothing Contract awarded through Firebuy Ltd.

**The press and public were asked to leave the meeting for consideration of the following item because of the disclosure of EXEMPT information by virtue of paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.**

**14. Industrial Action**  
(CFO/011/10)

Members considered Report CFO/011/10 of the Executive Director of Law concerning the result of the latest ballot for Industrial Action by the Fire Brigades Union.

Resolved that:

- (a) The Authority confirmed that it will continue to pay CPD payments to staff who take industrial action in the form of a refusal to work pre-arranged overtime from 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010 on an interim basis, but without prejudice to the Authority's ability to reconsider the recovery/cessation of CPD payments in such cases upon conclusion of the industrial action in the absence of any collective agreement to the contrary, which may form part of the terms of settlement of the dispute; and

- (b) That it will continue to permit staff who take industrial action in the form of a refusal to work pre-arranged overtime from 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010, to participate in the Attendance Incentive Scheme (including entry to the attendance draw and attendance awards) on an interim basis, but without prejudice to the Authority's ability to reconsider the withdrawal of accrued benefits in relation to such staff upon conclusion of the industrial action in the absence of any collective agreement to the contrary which may form part of the terms of settlement of the dispute.

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Date of Next Meeting

Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2010