

## MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

16<sup>th</sup> December 2010

**PRESENT:** Councillors Tony Newman (Chair),  
Jimmy Mahon, Ted Grannell, Denise Roberts,  
Eddie Clein, Dave Hanratty, Barbara Murray, Les  
Byrom, Linda Maloney, Robbie Ayres, Colin  
Strickland, Lesly Rennie, Gerry Ellis, Andrew  
Blackburn

**ALSO PRESENT:** Independent Members Carole Roberts and  
Keith Pickup

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**Apologies for absence were received from:**  
Councillors Sharon Sullivan and Jimmy  
Kendrick and Independent Member Linda  
Phillips

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At the start of the meeting, the Authority were informed that as of 15<sup>th</sup> December Councillor Steve Niblock would be the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group on the Authority.

### 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 disclosure of exempt information.

- (a) The following declaration of interest was made in relation to Items on the agenda:
  - Councillor Byrom declared a personal Interest in Agenda Item 9 – Outsourcing and Shared Services.
- (b) There were no additional items of business which the Chair determined should be considered as a matter of urgency.
- (c) One item of business required the exclusion of the press and public due to the disclosure of exempt information:

- Item 22- EXEMPT – Part 2 of Authority minutes of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

## 2. **Minutes Of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010, were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

## 3. **Annual Audit Letter**

Robin Baker, from the Audit Commission, presented the Annual Audit Letter and the main findings to the Authority and thanked all involved in the process for their help and co-operation.

## 4. **Budget Update**

The Assistant Chief Executive & Treasurer – Kieran Timmins delivered a presentation to the Authority regarding the recent Government Spending Review.

### Members Resolved:

- (a) That all staff be kept informed regarding the situation as and when relevant information becomes available.
- (b) That all Members are to make every effort to attend the Budget Strategy Days scheduled for the mornings of 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January 2011.
- (c) That a response to the consultation be prepared on behalf of the Authority and approved by the Party Leaders prior to sending.

## 5. **Annual Report 2009/10** (CFO/206/10)

Members considered and noted Report CFO/206/10 of the Assistant Chief Executive & Treasurer, concerning the Annual Report 2009/10 covering the period April 2009 to March 2010 following approval by the IRMP Scrutiny Panel.

## 6. **Report Of The Inspection By The HSE** (CFO/219/10)

Members considered Report CFO/219/10 of the Deputy Chief Executive & Deputy Chief Fire Officer, concerning the HSE Inspection.

### Members Resolved:

- (a) To note the Report.
- (b) To endorse the action plan formulated to deliver improvements to the health and safety of employees.

- (c) To agree that the Consultation and Negotiation Committee receive reports relating to the establishment of a Staff Communications Forum as part of a wider role to oversee an Authority Community and Consultation Strategy.
- (d) That a training session be arranged for Members to take place on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2011 regarding Health and Safety and that all Members endeavour to attend.

**7. IMRP Focus Group 2010**  
(CFO/213/10)

Members considered and noted Report CFO/213/10 of the Assistant Chief Executive & Treasurer, concerning the successful outcomes from the IRMP public consultation forum.

**8. Analysis Of Deliberate Secondary Fires Throughout Merseyside During The Bonfire Period.**  
(CFO/215/10)

Members considered Report CFO/215/10 of the Assistant Chief Executive & Treasurer, concerning the contents of the reports, which will be shared with Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP) and other relevant groups across Merseyside.

Members Resolved:

- (a) To note the contents of the Report.
- (b) To contact Officers should they require presentations to be delivered to their Local Authorities.

**9. Outsourcing And Shared Services**  
(CFO/193/10)

Members considered Report CFO/193/10 of the Assistant Chief Executive & Treasurer, concerning the extent to which outsourcing and shared services is currently used in MFRA.

Members Resolved:

- (a) To note the Report.
- (b) That a Learning Lunch be arranged regarding further possible opportunities for the sharing of services.

It was also requested that the District Councils be contacted regarding the emergency planning provisions that they have in place.

## **10. Tender For Insurance Services**

(CFO/218/10)

Members considered Report CFO/218/10 of the Assistant Chief Executive & Treasurer, concerning the delegation of the acceptance of tenders for insurance services.

### **Members Resolved:**

- (a) To approve the proposal to give delegated authority to the Treasurer to determine the arrangements for the opening of tenders on behalf of the Authority.
- (b) To approve the proposal to give delegated authority for the acceptance of tenders and award of contract to the Clerk to the Authority, or in her absence Deputy Clerk in consultation with the Treasurer and Chair to the Authority or their deputies in their absence.
- (c) To note and approve the current and proposed levels of insurance cover and excess.

## **11. Income Generation At Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service**

(CFO/196/10)

Members considered Report CFO/196/10 of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer & Treasurer, concerning the ways in which Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service can use existing skills, expertise and services to provide additional funding.

### **Members Resolved:**

- (a) To note the five projects in the first round of the agreed income generation programme and the intended outcomes.
- (b) To note the planned review of how Mersey Fire and Rescue Service charges for the provision of services.
- (c) To note the intention to seek additional income generation ideas from within the organisation.
- (d) That a report be brought back to the Authority detailing what we currently charge for and highlighting recommendations for revised prices.

## **12. Charges For Firelink Communications Infrastructure & Services**

(CFO/207/10)

Members considered and noted Report CFO/207/10 of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer & Treasurer, concerning the recommendations of the report relating to the recently published cost indications of the new national Firelink communications platform.

Members Resolved:

- (a) To note that provision has been made in the budget for increased costs associated with joining the Firelink communications infrastructure.
- (b) That as no response has been received to date to the letter previously sent to the Fire Minister, a further letter to prompt a response be sent to the Fire Minister on behalf of the Authority.

**13. National Procurement Arrangements**

(CFO/208/10)

Members considered and noted Report CFO/208/10 of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer & Treasurer, concerning the imminent changes to national procurement arrangements and the potential role that the NW Region can take in managing legacy Firebuy framework agreements.

**14. Outcomes Of Dialogue With MCA Relating To Non Mobilisation Of MFRS Assets**

(CFO/209/10)

Members considered and approved Report CFO/209/10 of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer, concerning the set of principles agreed with the MCA and detailed within the report.

**15. Work Life Balance Service Instructions**

(CFO/210/10)

Members considered Report CFO/210/10 of the Deputy Chief Executive & Deputy Chief Fire Officer concerning amendments made to the Work Life Balance Service Instructions.

Members Resolved:

- (a) To recognise the value of the Authorities progressive work/life balance strategy.
- (b) To approve and endorse the enhanced Services Instructions.
- (c) To note the additional requests made during the consultation process by the FBU, but not to endorse these requests at this time due to the current economic environment.

**16. Revised Redundancy & Redeployment Policy & Service Instructions**

(CFO/212/10)

Members considered Report CFO/212/10 of the Deputy Chief Executive & Deputy Chief Fire Officer, concerning a revised Policy and Service Instructions.

Members Resolved:

- (a) To approve the revised Policy and Service Instructions for the purpose of consultation with the recognised trade unions.
- (b) That a report be brought back to the Authority regarding the outcomes of that consultation.

**17. Quorum & Membership Of Consultation And Negotiation Committee**  
(CFO/190/10)

Members considered Report CFO/190/10 of the Clerk to the Authority & Monitoring Officer concerning a change to the membership of the Consultation and Negotiation Committee.

Members Resolved:

- (a) To approve an increase of one additional Member to sit upon the Consultation and Negotiation Committee in order to ensure that future meetings are quorate.
- (b) That Councillor Les Byrom would be the additional Member appointed to the Consultation and Negotiation Committee.

**18. The Bribery Act 2010**  
(CFO/192/10)

Members considered Report CFO/192/10 of the Clerk to the Authority & Monitoring Officer, concerning the implications of the Bribery Act 2010 for Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority.

Members Resolved:

- (a) To note the Report.
- (b) To ensure that offers of gifts and hospitality made to Members are declared to Committee Services on a regular basis.

**19. Update On Conferences Attended**  
(CFO/211/10)

Members considered and noted Report CFO/211/10 of the Assistant Chief Executive & Treasurer concerning, the outcomes from recent conferences attended by Members.

**20. Performance Dashboard For Authority Meetings**  
(CFO/214/10)

Members considered Report CFO/214/10 of the Assistant Chief Executive & Treasurer concerning the inclusion of a brief performance update to be included at future Authority meetings.

Members Resolved:

- (a) To approve the inclusion of a performance dashboard on the agenda of every Full Authority Meeting.

**21. NW Employers Elected Member Development Charter Award**  
(CFO/216/10)

Members considered Report CFO/216/10 of the Chief Executive & Chief Fire Officer concerning the Elected Member Development, Charter Award.

Members Resolved:

- (a) To note the Authorities success in achieving Level 1 Review of the North West Employers Elected Member Development Charter Award.
- (b) To approve the Member Development Groups proposal to apply under Level 2 of the North West Employers Elected Member Development Charter Award, in relation to youth engagement and antisocial behaviour, to be produced and submitted on behalf of the Authority, to ensure that the assessment is carried out before the end of the municipal year – to ensure that the contribution of all Members can be taken into account unaffected by any changes that could occur following elections.
- (c) To thank the Committee Services Team for their part in the achievement of the Charter Award.

**22. Exempt – Part 2 Of Authority Minutes Of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

The Exempt section of the Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010, were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

Date of Next Meeting

Budget Authority Meeting Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2011