

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

FULL AUTHORITY MEETING

TUESDAY 3RD JULY 2012

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Dave Hanratty (Chair)

Councillors: Linda Maloney, Les Byrom, Andrew Blackburn, Robbie Ayres, Violet Bebb, Darren Dodd, Ted Grannell, John Kelly, Pat Moloney, Barbara Murray, Tony Newman, Steve Niblock

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors: Jimmy Mahon, Lesley Rennie, Denise Roberts, Colin Strickland and Sharon Sullivan.

At the opening of the meeting, The Chair welcomed Former Member Eddie Clein and presented him with a Mounted Axe on behalf of the Authority in recognition of his 17 years service as a Members of Authority. Eddie Clein expressed his gratitude to the Authority highlighting in particular the unique camaraderie experienced on the Fire Authority. He also paid tribute to Albert Smith a St Helens Councillor who died in Hong Kong while promoting the 2008 World Firefighter Games.

In recognition of former Members Ian Lewis and Terry Jones' Service on the Fire Authority, the Chair advised that Councillors Leslie Rennie and Jimmy Mahon had been nominated to accept a gift on their behalf from the Authority, and requested that they pass the gifts to the former Members.

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 due to the disclosure of exempt information.

(a) The following declarations of interest were made in relation to items of business on the agenda:

- Councillor Barbara Murray declared a personal interest in relation to item 8 – Revised Duty System at Whiston - as she works in Stockbridge Village.

(b) There were no items on the agenda that were determined by the Chair to be considered as a matter of urgency.

(c) There were no exempt items of business on the agenda that required the exclusion of the press and public.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Authority, the Annual General Meeting, held on 12th June 2012, were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

3. Revenue and Capital Outturn 2011/12
(CFO/089/12)

Members considered Report CFO/089/12 of the Deputy Chief Executive concerning the financial accounts position for 2011/12

Members resolved that

- (a) The financial accounts of the Authority and the revenue savings achieved in 2011/12 of £3.251 million be noted; and
- (b) The proposal to utilise the £3.251 million to increase the capital investment reserve, be approved.

4. Membership of The Local Enterprise Partnership (Formerly the Mersey Partnership)
(CFO/092/12)

Members considered Report CFO/092/12 of the Deputy Chief Executive, concerning Membership of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) (formerly the Mersey Partnership).

Councillor Pat Moloney asked whether the processes of the LEP could be encouraged, if necessary, to proceed more quickly. The Chair advised that the Authority's Membership of the LEP is not as a Board Member therefore it would be difficult to make any proceedings move faster.

Members resolved that

- (a) The proposal that the Authority continues its membership of LEP be approved; and
- (b) The Chair urged Members to speak to their Council Leaders if they wish to address Local Enterprise Partnership proceedings.

5. Health and Safety Annual Report
(CFO/093/12)

Members considered Report CFO/093/12 of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, concerning the Annual Health & Safety Report for 2011/12. In relation to an incident noted in appendix A, Councillor John Kelly raised the question of why a Fire Fighter should be exposed to asbestos at all. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer highlighted that the role of a Fire Fighter includes entry into unchecked buildings and areas where asbestos may be encountered from time to time.

Councillor Kelly requested a private meeting with the Deputy Chief Fire officer to discuss the outcome of a FireFighter who had been exposed to Asbestos.

Members resolved that

- (a) The report be noted, and
- (b) The “Safe Organisation” concept for MFRA be approved, and
- (c) A meeting be arranged between Councillor Kelly and the Deputy Chief Fire Officer outside of this arena, as per the Councillor’s request.

6. Standards Committee Regulations
(CFO/090/12)

Members considered Report CFO/090/12 of the Monitoring Officer and Clerk to the Authority concerning new Regulations relating to Member Codes of Conduct.

Members heard how the recent change in legislation meant that the Standards committee and roles of Independent Members were no longer statutory requirements and would come to a close. Discussions are taking place with Merseytravel over having a joint independent person. Members agreed that the final decision for this would be delegated to the Executive Leadership Board.

It was agreed that training in the New Code of Conduct for Members will take place at 12:15 on the 31st July prior to the Authority Meeting.

The Chair advised Members that Carole Roberts, Keith Pickup and Linda Phillips had all submitted their resignation as the Authority’s Independent Members, and noted his appreciation for their involvements in attending meetings, training events and Strategy Days during their periods in post.

Members Resolved that:

- (a) The revised Code of Conduct as previously approved by the Authority at Appendix A be adopted.
- (b) The proposed changes to the Authority’s Committee structure as outlined in Appendix B or such alternative structure as Members wish be approved.
- (c) The proposed changes to the Terms of Reference for both the Executive Leadership Board and the Audit sub Committee as outlined in Appendix C be approved.
- (d) The appointment of a joint independent person with Merseytravel be approved.

- (e) The type of payment they wish to make to an independent person – either an allowance, a payment by hours or by expenses alone be considered further by the Executive Leadership Board.
- (f) The proposed changes to the procedures as outlined in Appendix D to the report be approved.
- (g) Decisions in relation to the arrangements with Merseytravel, and any other Local Authority who wish to work together in relation to Standards, be considered by the Executive leadership Board.
- (h) That a letter be sent to each of the former Independent Members, on behalf of the Authority, to express their appreciation for their services to the Authority, and to wish them well for the future.
- (i) That all Members attend the mandatory training event in relation to the Code of Conduct and Pecuniary Interests, which will be held at SHQ on 31st July as a Learning Lunch Prior to the Full Authority meeting.
- (j) Any Members who are unable to attend the mandatory training on the 31st July contact the Clerk or the Democratic Services Manager to advise them prior to the event, and advise their availability to attend the training on another agreed date.

7. The New Community Right To Challenge

(CFO/095/12)

Members considered Report CFO/095/12 of the Director of Legal, Procurement and Democratic Services concerning the new community right to challenge.

Members Resolved that:

- a) The report and its implications be noted.
- b) The specification of time periods for submission of expressions of interest to coincide with meetings of the Social Growth and Localism sub-committee be approved
- c) The publishing of any rejections of an expression of interest be approved, and
- d) The Clerk to the Authority be instructed to report to the Social Growth & Localism sub-committee with draft processes and procedures for this matter.

8. Revised Duty System at Whiston

(CFO/091/12)

Members considered Report CFO/091/12 of the Deputy Chief Executive concerning an update on progress against the delivery of the budget saving option “implementing a revised duty system at Whiston Fire Station”.

Members considered the Equality Impact Assessment associated with this report.

Members Resolved that:

- (a) The proposal of the creation of a combined blue light centre at Prescott with the two pump fire station element to replace the existing one pump fire stations at Huyton and Whiston, subject to successful planning permission, the outcomes of public and staff consultation and final tender prices being known, be approved in principle.
- (b) The Chief Fire Officer be directed to enter into appropriate legal agreements with the Police and Ambulance Service.
- (c) The application for grant funding from CLG for £1.7m to support the project be approved.
- (d) The CFO (in consultation with the Chair) be granted delegated powers to commence public and representative body consultation at the appropriate time.
- (e) The CFO be granted delegated powers to execute the procurement process for the project on behalf of the Authority and to apply for planning permission.
- (f) The CFO be directed to report back on the outcomes of the tender exercise, grant bid and the consultation processes before the final decision is taken on the project.

9. Notice of Motion From the Chair of the Authority – Received 24/06/12

In line with the Authority’s Constitution, Standing Order 8 – The Chair of the Authority has given Notice of Motion to the Clerk. The Chair moved that Membership of the Performance and Scrutiny Committee be increased to 8 Members and appointment of 1 further Scrutiny Member be adopted.

Members Resolved that:

- a) The Membership of the Performance and Scrutiny Committee be increased to 8 Members; and
- b) The appointment of 1 further Scrutiny Member be approved.

Close