

**MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**FULL AUTHORITY MEETING**

**THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2012**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillors Tony Newman (Chair), Dave Hanratty, Jimmy Mahon, Les Byrom, Denise Roberts, Linda Maloney, Lesley Rennie, Ted Grannell, Andrew Blackburn, Terry Jones, Vi Bebb, Colin Strickland, Barbara Murray, Steve Niblock and Robbie Ayres.

**Also Present:** Independent Members Carole Roberts, Linda Phillips and Keith Pickup

**Apologies for absence were received from:**  
Councillor Sharon Sullivan

At the opening of the meeting, the Chair of the Authority informed Members that the Authority would consist of sixteen Members until the Annual Meeting as unfortunately, Eddie Clein and Ian Lewis lost their seats in the recent local elections and as a result, are no longer Members of the Authority. He conveyed best wishes on behalf of the Authority to both individuals and thanked them for their service on the Authority.

The Chair of the Authority also advised Members that Item 16 would be considered prior to Item 15.

**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:

- Councillors Tony Newman and Lesley Rennie declared a personal interest in Item 19 – Home Fire Safety Delivery Strategy, due to being Trustees of the Fire Support Network

(b) The following items on the agenda were determined by the Chair that should be considered as a matter of urgency:

- Item 3 – Minutes of the IRMP Scrutiny Panel – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2012

- Item 20 – Attendance Incentive Scheme
- EXEMPT Item 21 – Merseyside Joint Control Centre Feasibility Study
- EXEMPT Item 22 – Introduction of Single Pay Points

(c) The following items of business on the agenda required the exclusion of the press and public due to the disclosure of exempt information:

- Item 21- Merseyside Joint Control Centre – Feasibility Study
- Item 22 – Introduction of Single Pay Points

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Authority, the Budget Authority Meeting, held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2012, were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

**3. Minutes of the IRMP Scrutiny Panel – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

*These Minutes were determined by the Chair to be considered as a matter of urgency because the IRMP Scrutiny Panel Minutes need to be approved by the Authority before the Authority's AGM..*

The Minutes of the last meeting of the IRMP Scrutiny Panel, held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2012, were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

**4. Minutes of the Consultation & Negotiation Committee – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2012**

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Consultation & Negotiation Committee, held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2012, were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

**5. Minutes of the Audit & Value For Money Scrutiny Panel – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Audit & Value For Money Scrutiny Panel, held on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012, were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

**6. Minutes of the Community Protection Committee – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Community Protection Committee, held on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012, were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

**7. Minutes of the Community Safety Scrutiny Panel – 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2012**

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Community Safety Scrutiny Panel, held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2012, were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

**8. Minutes of the Strategic Assets Committee – 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2012**

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Strategic Assets Committee, held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2012, were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

**9. Minutes of the Asset Management Scrutiny Panel – 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012**

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Asset Management Scrutiny Panel, held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012, were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

**10. Minutes of the Standards Committee – 12<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Standards Committee, held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2012, were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

**11. Treasury Management Annual Report 2011/12**

(CFO/081/12)

Members considered Report CFO/081/12 of the Deputy Chief Executive, concerning the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2011/12.

Members resolved that the report be noted..

**12. Annual Review of Internal Audit**

(CFO/080/12)

Members considered Report CFO/080/12 of the Deputy Chief Executive, concerning the work of Internal Audit in 2011/12.

Members resolved that the report be noted.

**13. Annual Governance Statement**

(CFO/082/12)

Members considered Report CFO/082/12 of the Deputy Chief Executive, concerning the Annual Governance Statement for 2011/12.

Members Resolved that:

(a) The Annual Governance Statement for 2011/12, be approved.

(b) The document be signed by the Chair of the Authority on behalf of the Authority.

**14. Implications Of The Localism Act 2011 In Relation To Standards Committees**  
(CFO/039/12)

Members considered Report CFO/039/12 of the Clerk To The Authority, concerning implications of the Localism Act 2011, in relation to Standards Committees.

Members Resolved that:

- (a) The implications of the Localism Act 2011 for Standards regimes be noted.
- (b) The current Standards Committee arrangements, for dealing with complaints against Members, continue until further guidance is provided by Government.
- (c) A mandatory training session be arranged for all Members following the release of this guidance.
- (d) Following the issuing of this guidance, a further report will be brought back to the Authority, containing options for their consideration and information regarding possible sanctions available.

**15. Impact Of The Budget Cuts On The Dynamic Reserve**  
(CFO/066/12)

Members considered Report CFO/066/12 and associated Equality Impact Assessment, of the Chief Fire Officer, concerning the impact of the budget cuts in years 1 and 2 of the spending review, on the dynamic reserve.

Members Resolved that:

- (a) The content of the Report and associated Equality Impact Assessment, be noted.
- (b) The Chief Fire Officer strive to mitigate the impact of the budget cuts on operational response, through his use of delegated powers for operational management, under the Authority's Scheme of Delegation.
- (c) Quarterly reports be brought back to the Authority, to enable Members to review and understand the increasing impact of the budget cuts on the dynamic reserve and availability of appliances.
- (d) Information regarding the impact of the budget cuts, be fed back to MP's and District Council Leaders and Chief Executives as part of the ongoing lobbying process.

**16. Recruitment Of 21 Hour Contract Firefighter Posts For Succession Planning**  
(CFO/062/12)

Members considered Report CFO/062/12 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning the recruitment of a limited number of Firefighters on 21 hour contracts each year, as a long term succession planning measure.

Members Resolved that:

- (a) The recruitment of a limited number of Firefighters on 21 hour contracts each year, as a long term succession planning measure, be agreed in principle.
- (b) The Chief Fire Officer be instructed to identify a detailed recruitment strategy to support long term succession planning, in light of the eventual financial position.

**17. North West Employers Elected Member Development Charter Award – Level 2 Application**  
(CFO/057/12)

Members considered Report CFO/057/12 of the Deputy Chief Executive, concerning the submission of the application on behalf of the Authority, for the North West Employers Development Charter Award, to achieve Exemplar Status.

Members Resolved that:

- (a) The recommendations of the Member Development Group, be noted.
- (b) The application be approved for submission to North West Employers on behalf of the Authority, before the end of July.
- (c) The deadlines for the assessment process and date of the annual celebration for successful applicants, be noted.
- (d) Members be encouraged to make themselves available to meet with the Assessors to discuss their development, in support of their application.
- (e) The final version of the application document, be provided to all Members, including any new Members joining the Authority, as part of their induction.
- (f) A training session be arranged for Members as a refresher, prior to the assessment visit.
- (g) Officers be requested to ensure that any assessment visit does not clash with any other business of the Authority.

**18. Concept Knowsley Funding**  
(CFO/079/12)

Members considered and noted Report CFO/079/12 and associated Equality Impact Assessment of the Chief Fire Officer, concerning the provision of £26k from Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council, for youth engagement and diversionary activity.

**19. Home Fire Safety Delivery Strategy**  
(CFO/083/12)

Members considered Report CFO/083/12 and associated Equality Impact Assessment, of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, concerning the strategic delivery of home fire safety checks within Merseyside.

Members Resolved that:

- (a) The content of the report be noted.
- (b) A period of consultation with the public in relation to the revised HFSC strategy and provision of smoke detectors during HFSC revisits on a not for profit, cost recovery basis, for members of the community assessed as low risk, be approved.
- (c) A pilot of the revised HFSC delivery strategy, be approved to take place between 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013.
- (d) A further report be brought back to Members following the conclusion of this pilot, highlighting the outcomes.

**20. Attendance Incentive Scheme**  
(CFO/061/12)

*This item was determined by the Chair to be considered as a matter of urgency due to further information being requested by IRMP Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2012.*

Members considered Report CFO/061/12 of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, concerning the Attendance Incentive Scheme.

Members Resolved that:

- (a) The recommendation of the IRMP Scrutiny Panel, to end the Attendance Incentive Scheme from 2012/13 onwards, be approved:
- (b) The 2011/12 financial year's prize draw, which was due to take place in April 2012, be concluded by replacing the prize of a car, with vouchers.
- (c) Payment to staff who have accrued the long term incentive £50's, be approved.

- (d) The banking of accrued incentive leave days, to be taken when employees leave the service, be approved.
- (e) The Chief Fire Officer be instructed to explore options for an alternative attendance incentive scheme and bring a report back to Members regarding this, following the conclusion of the current Spending Review period.

Close

Next Meeting: Annual General Meeting