

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

12TH JUNE 2012

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillors Tony Newman, Dave Hanratty, Linda Maloney, Jimmy Mahon, Steve Niblock, Colin Strickland, Robbie Ayres, Ted Grannell, Les Byrom, Barbara Murray, Vi Bebb, Sharon Sullivan, Darren Dodd, John Kelly, Denise Roberts, Lesley Rennie, Andrew Blackburn and Pat Moloney.

Also present: Independent Member Keith Pickup

Apologies for absence were received from:
Independent Member Carole Roberts.

Prior to Business:

Councillor Newman expressed thanks on behalf of the Authority to the three Members leaving the Authority, Eddie Clein, Ian Lewis and Terry Jones, all of whom were invited to this meeting, but were unfortunately unable to attend.

Eddie Clein, Ian Lewis and Cllr Terry Jones will be invited to attend a future meeting of the Authority, where they will be presented with an award on behalf of the Fire Authority as a token of appreciation, in recognition of their dedication and service.

1. Minutes of The Previous Meeting – Part 1

The Minutes of the Previous Meeting – Part 1, held on the 17th May 2012, were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

2. Minutes of The Previous Meeting – Part 2

Part 2 (Exempt) section of the Minutes of the previous meeting, held on the 17th May 2012, were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

3. Election Of Chair

Councillor Newman requested nominations for the position of Chair of Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority.

Councillor Dave Hanratty (proposed by Linda Maloney and seconded by Les Byrom) was nominated for the position of Chair of the Authority.

Councillor Dave Hanratty was duly elected as Chair of the Authority for the Municipal Year 2012/13 and presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Councillor Dave Hanratty thanked Members for the nomination and requested that his thanks and appreciation be placed on record to Councillor Tony Newman for his efforts in the role of Chair of the Authority, during some difficult times and advised that he would do his best to continue to build upon those efforts moving forward.

Members applauded Councillor Newman in appreciation.

4. Appointment Of Vice-Chairs

Councillor Hanratty requested nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Authority and explained that there are two positions of Vice-Chair of Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority.

Councillors Linda Maloney and Les Byrom (proposed by Councillor Dave Hanratty and seconded by Councillor Tony Newman) were nominated as Vice-Chairs of the Authority.

Councillors Linda Maloney and Les Byrom were duly elected as Vice-Chairs of the Authority for the Municipal year 2012/13.

The Chair requested that his thanks and appreciation be placed on record to Councillor Mahon, for his services as Vice-Chair of the Authority.

Members applauded Councillor Mahon in appreciation.

5. Membership of the Authority 2012/13 (CFO/068/11)

Members considered Report CFO/068/11 of the Clerk to the Authority, concerning changes to the Membership for the Authority for 2012/13.

Members Resolved:

- I. that the termination of the appointments of Eddie Clein (Liberal Democrat) and Ian Lewis (Conservative) in May as a result of the Local Elections, be noted.
- II. that termination of the appointment of Councillor Terry Jones (Conservative) following the Sefton District Council AGM, be noted.
- III. the appointment of Councillor Pat Moloney (Liberal Democrat) to the Authority by Liverpool City Council, be noted.
- IV. the appointment of Councillor John Joseph Kelly (Labour) to the Authority by Sefton District Council, be noted.

- V. the appointment of Councillor Darren Dodd (Labour) to the Authority by Wirral District Council, be noted.
- VI. the Political Balance of the Authority now being 15 Labour Members, 2 Liberal Democrat Members and 1 Conservative Member, be noted.
- VII. that Membership of the Authority for 2012/13 as follows, be noted:

Knowsley District Council - 2 Members:

Councillor Ted Grannell (Labour)
Councillor Tony Newman (Labour)

Liverpool City Council - 6 Members:

Councillor Vi Bebb (Labour)
Councillor Dave Hanratty (Labour)
Councillor Barbara Murray (Labour)
Councillor Colin Strickland (Labour)
Councillor Sharon Sullivan (Labour)
Councillor Pat Moloney (Liberal Democrat)

Sefton District Council - 3 Members:

Councillor Les Byrom (Labour)
Councillor Jimmy Mahon (Labour)
Councillor John Joseph Kelly (Labour)
Councillor Andrew Blackburn (Liberal Democrat)

St Helens District Council - 2 Members:

Councillor Robbie Ayres (Labour)
Councillor Linda Maloney (Labour)

Wirral District Council - 4 Members:

Councillor Steve Niblock (Labour)
Councillor Denise Roberts (Labour)
Councillor Darren Dodd (Labour)
Councillor Lesley Rennie (Conservative)

The Chair of the Authority welcomed the new Members, Councillors Darren Dodd, John Joseph Kelly and Pat Moloney onto the Authority and confirmed that those Members leaving the Authority will be invited to attend the Authority Meeting on 3rd July.

6. Structure Of The Authority
(CFO/069/12)

Members considered Report CFO/069/12 of the Clerk to the Authority concerning the Structure of the Authority for 2012/13.

Members Resolved:

(a) that the new proposed Authority Structure be approved, appointing the following Committees until the time of the Annual Meeting 2013, with the number of voting Members as follows:

- (i) An Executive Leadership Board of 5 Members:
- (ii) An Appeals Committee of 5 Members
- (iii) An Appointments Committee of 5 Members
- (iv) A Community Safety And Protection Committee of 8 Members
- (v) A Policy & Resources Committee of 8 Members
- (vi) A Consultation & Negotiation Committee of 5 Members
- (vii) A Standards Committee of 3 Independent Members and 4 Elected Members
- (viii) An Initial Assessment Sub-Committee of the Standards Committee of 1 Independent Member and 3 Members
- (ix) A Review Of Initial Assessment Sub-Committee of the Standards Committee of 1 Independent Member and 3 Members
- (x) An Audit Sub-Committee of 5 Members
- (xi) A Social Growth And Localism Sub- Committee of 5 Members
- (xii) A Performance And Scrutiny Committee of 6 Members
- (xiii) A Task & Finish And Efficiency Review Group (Members required dependent on topic for scrutiny).
- (xiv) A Member Development Group of 4 Members

(b) that the Authority allocates seats on the above Committee and Groups by Political Group on the following basis:

- (i) Those Committees with 8 Seats: 7 seats to the Labour Group: 1 seat to the Liberal Democrat Group OR Conservative Group.

- (ii) The Executive Leadership Board with 5 seats: 3 seat to the Labour Group: 1 seat to the Liberal Democrat Group and 1 seat to the Conservative Group.
 - (iii) The Appeals and Appointments Committee with 5 seats: 3 seats to the Labour Group: 1 seat to the Liberal Democrat Group and 1 seat to the Conservative Group.
 - (iv) Those other Committees and Sub-Committees with 5 Seats: 4 seats to the Labour Group: 1 seat to the Liberal Democrat Group OR Conservative Group.
 - (v) The Standards Committee with 7 seats: 3 seats to Independent Members: 2 Seats to Labour Group: 1 seat to the Liberal Democrat Group and 1 seat to the Conservative Group.
 - (vi) The Sub Committees of the Standards Committee with 4 seats: 1 seat to an Independent Member, 1 seat to the Labour Group, 1 seat to the Conservative Group and 1 seat to the Liberal Democrat Group.
- (c) The Clerk to the Authority be instructed to provide mandatory training on both revisions to the Standards regime (when this is brought into force) and the role of scrutiny.

**7. The Authority's Constitution For 2012/13
(CFO/070/12)**

Members considered Report CFO/070/12 of the Clerk to the Authority, concerning the revised Constitution for Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority for 2012/13.

Members Resolved that:

- (a) The draft amended Constitution for 2012/13, be approved.
- (b) The Clerk to the Authority be instructed to review the Constitution in light of any changes in legislation and bring further reports back to the Authority in these circumstances.

**8. Dates of Committee Meetings 2012/13
(CFO/071/12)**

Members considered Report CFO/071/12 of the Clerk to the Authority concerning a timetable of meetings and events of the Authority and Committees for 2012/13.

Members Resolved that:

- (a) The proposed list of dates attached to the report, based on the new structure of the Authority (agreed earlier on the Agenda), be agreed.
- (b) The possible need for additional meetings to be called, following the announcement of the grant settlement for years 3 and 4 of the Comprehensive Spending Review, be noted.
- (c) The approved dates of meetings be produced for Members convenience in an easy reference document.

**9. Questions on the Discharge of Functions
(CFO/072/12)**

Members considered Report CFO/072/12 of the Director of Legal, Procurement and Democratic Services, requesting the Authority to nominate Members of the Authority from each of the five constituent District Councils, as the Member responsible for answering questions in their councils on the discharge of the functions of the Authority.

Members Resolved that:

- (a) One Member from each district, be appointed to answer questions on the discharge of functions, to ensure that accurate and consistent information is passed on.
- (b) The following Members be appointed to perform this role for 2012/13 on behalf of the Authority:

Liverpool: Councillor Dave Hanratty
Knowsley: Councillor Tony Newman
Sefton: Councillor Jimmy Mahon
Wirral: Councillor Denise Roberts
St Helens: Councillor Linda Maloney

**10. Appointment To Outside Organisations
(CFO/073/12)**

Members considered Report CFO/073/12 of the Clerk to The Authority concerning appointments to outside organisations for 2012/13.

Members Resolved that:

- (a) the Authority continue affiliation with the organisations specified within the report.
- (b) Democratic Services be provided with the names of those Members to be appointed to the various outside organisations contained within the report.

- (c) Further information be sought regarding the role of the National Joint Council.
- (d) James Sharples from the Merseyside Brussels Office, be requested to attend meetings of the full Authority, particularly when financial reports are being considered, to advise of any appropriate funding opportunities.
- (e) The work undertaken involving Merseyside Brussels Office be scrutinised through the new approved scrutiny processes.

11. Members Allowance Payments 2011/12
(CFO/074/12)

Members considered Report CFO/074/12 of the Clerk to the Authority, concerning payments made to Members in respect of allowances during the financial year 2011/12.

Members resolved that:

the content of the report be noted.

12. Scheme of Members Allowances 2012/13
(CFO/075/12)

Members considered Report CFO/075/12 of the Clerk to the Authority concerning a review of the current Members' Allowance Scheme.

Members resolved that:

the proposed revised Scheme of Members Allowances, in line with the new structure (approved by the Authority earlier on the Agenda), be approved.

13. Meetings with National Politicians at Party Political Conferences
(CFO/076/12)

Members considered Report CFO/076/12 of the Clerk to The Authority concerning the possible attendance of Members at party political conferences in order to make Authority related representations.

Members Resolved that:

- (a) appropriate representatives of the political groups of the Authority be authorised to attend meetings with Ministers, opposition spokespersons and other relevant national politicians to be held at the location of their own party political conferences to discuss issues relating to the business of the Authority,

- (b) appropriate travel and subsistence expenses for such meetings be met but no payment of conference fees be made.
- (c) any Members attending such events, be requested to Report back to the Authority as to issues raised and responses and progress on information received.

14. Approved Conferences and Outside Meetings
(CFO/077/12)

Members considered Report CFO/077/12 of the Clerk to The Authority concerning the approved list of conferences and outside meetings, and any revisions to the list.

Members Resolved that:

- (a) attendance at meetings with Ministers and MP's be included in the list of approved Conference and Outside Meetings.
- (b) with the inclusion of the above addition, the list of Conferences and Outside Meetings, attached to the report, be approved.
- (c) A presentation be provided to Members at the Strategy Day in July, regarding the possible impact of budget cuts on response times.
- (d) A full report be brought back to a future meeting providing an update on the lobbying strategy.

Date of the Next Meeting: Tuesday 3rd July 2012