

**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE**  
**MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**  
**THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2012**  
**MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillors Les Byrom (Chair), Tony Newman, Dave Hanratty, Denise Roberts, Steve Niblock, Robbie Ayres, Andrew Blackburn, and Vi Bebb (acting as alternate Member for Cllr Dodd)

**Apologies for absence were received from:**

Councillor Darren Dodd also from Councillor Sullivan (not a voting Member of this committee)

**1. Preliminary Matters**

The Committee 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 Les Byrom and Andrew Blackburn declared a personal interest into Item 6 – EXEMPT Report CFO/113/12 **Merseyside Joint Control Centre Procurement of Design & Construction Contractors** due to being Councillors appointed from Sefton Borough Council.

(b) The following item on the agenda was determined by the Chair to be considered as a matter of urgency:

- Additional item CFO/112/12 - Localisation of Council Tax Support – this report was admitted as a late item onto the Agenda due to the information only becoming available after the statutory deadline for this Committee's Agenda to be published.

(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 5 – CFO/102/12 **Formby Fire Station**

***This report contains EXEMPT information by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972***

- Item 6 - CFO/113/12 **Merseyside Joint Control Centre Procurement of Design & Construction Contractors**

***This report contains EXEMPT information by virtue of paragraph 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972***

## **2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

This was the first meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee therefore there were no previous minutes for consideration.

## **3. Current Building Projects**

Members were provided with a power point presentation by the Deputy Chief Executive – Kieran Timmins, regarding each of the current major building projects and their progress to date.

Resolved that:

The presentation be noted and The Deputy Chief Executive thanked for the update.

## **4. Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Gateway Review (CFO/111/12)**

Members considered Report CFO/111/12 of the Deputy Chief Executive, concerning the PFI Gateway Review

Resolved that:

(a) the report be noted.

(b) the positive feedback regarding the engagement of officers leading the project with Representative bodies, to be used in future projects as good practise, be noted.

(c) thanks and appreciation of the good work be given to all staff working on the PFI project, in particular Colin Schofield, Andy Groom, Justine Guy and assistance provided by Paul Murphy and Ian Clare.

## **5. Localisation of Council Tax Support (CFO/112/12)**

Members considered Report CFO/112/12 of the Deputy Chief Executive, concerning changes to localise Council Tax Benefit (CTB), and the potential financial implications for the Authority.

Resolved that:

(a) the report be noted;

- (b) Members support (in general terms) be given for localised council tax support schemes which would be cost neutral to the Authority; and
- (c) A letter be prepared for sending to the Billing Authorities, which is sympathetic to the financial challenges facing the Districts, to convey the Authority's views with regard to the design of localised council tax support schemes. The final wording of the letter is to be agreed with the Chair.

Date of next Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> October 2012

Close