

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

29th JANUARY 2009

PRESENT: Councillor Tony Newman (Chair);
Councillors Leslie Rennie, Gerry Ellis,
Betty Lowe MBE, Ken Roughley, Martyn
Barber, Vera Best, Eddie Clein, Andrew
Blackburn, Dave Hanratty, Sharon
Sullivan, John George, Steve Niblock,
Jimmy Kendrick and Jack Colbert

ALSO PRESENT: Linda Phillips - Independent Member

Apologies for absence were received from:
Councillors Ted Grannell and Jimmy Mahon

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 possibility of disclosure of exempt information.

- (a) The following Declarations of Interest were made in relation to items on the agenda.
 - Councillors Lowe and Roughley both declared a Personal Interest with regard to Agenda Item 8 - CFO/018/09 of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer concerning a Volunteer Fire Station in the Rainford Area, due to being St Helens District Councillors.
- (b) Report CFO/025/09 of the Executive Director of Law & Human Resources concerning the Purchase of 7 Fire Engines is to be dealt with as a matter of urgency and will be dealt with at the end of the Meeting along with the Exempt Minutes detailed below.
- (c) The following items were determined EXEMPT requiring the exclusion of the press and public.

Item 10 – EXEMPT Minutes of the Appointments Committee, 21st October 2008

Item 11 – EXEMPT Minutes of the Appointments Committee, 9th December 2008

Urgent Item - Report CFO/025/09 concerning the Purchase of 7 Fire Engines

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting held 15th January 2009

The proceedings of the last meeting of the Authority held on 15th January 2009 were accepted as a true record and were signed accordingly by the Chair of the Authority.

**3. Confidential Reporting Policy
(CFO/001/09)**

Members considered Report CFO/001/09 of the Executive Director of Law and Human Resources concerning Confidential Reporting Policy.

Resolved that:

- (a) the current Confidential Reporting Policy be replaced with the draft Combined Confidential Reporting & Public Interest Disclosure Policy
- (b) policies be transferred into the new Policy format before publication.

**4. Provision of Firefighting Helmets
(CFO/012/09)**

Members considered Report CFO/012/09 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning the Provision of Firefighting Helmets and approved the purchase of the new "Gallet" Firefighting helmet to be rolled out to all operational personnel within Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service.

**5. IDEAS Scheme
(CFO/014/09)**

Members considered and noted Report CFO/014/09 of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer concerning the IDEAS (Initiatives Delivering Excellence and Safety) Scheme and its progress to date.

Members resolved that nominations be sought for an Elected Member to sit on the IDEAS Committee.

**6. IRMP Action Point 7.2.2 - Attendance Standards for Road Traffic Collisions
(CFO/015/09)**

Members considered Report CFO/015/09 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning IRMP Action Point 7.2.2 – Attendance Standards for Road Traffic Collisions.

Resolved that:

- (a) to approve a new Service Attendance Standard where it is reported that persons are trapped as a result of a road traffic collision, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service will attend the incident within 8 minutes of the notification and will aim to achieve this standard on 90% of occasions.

- (b) to note the introduction of Casualty Comfort packs on all frontline appliances.
- (c) that Members are to be provided with a breakdown of the costs involved in disposable Casualty Comfort packs as opposed to reusable ones.
- (d) to include RTC attendance in future indicator sets.
- (e) that research is to be undertaken into why certain types of incident are more prevalent in some areas - eg. RTC's in Wirral.

7. Value for Money Strategy

(CFO/016/09)

Members considered Report CFO/016/09 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning the Authority's approach to securing Value for Money.

Resolved that:

- (a) the Value for Money Strategy is to be approved.
- (b) more consideration is to be given to sustainability issues when the Value for Money strategy is reviewed.
- (c) 'Health & Safety and Environmental Implications' sections are to be added to all Committee report templates.

8. Public Consultation of the Feasibility of a Volunteer Station within the Rainford Area.

(CFO/018/09)

Members considered Report CFO/018/09 of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer concerning recommendations relating to a Volunteer Fire Station in the Rainford Area.

Resolved that:

- (a) Members noted the recommendations contained in the Report and the preference expressed by the local community through the consultation process. In view of the lack of finance available in the context that the Authority has resources in place to meet its risks in this area under its Integrated Risk Management Plan, the Authority agreed to take no further action to progress this issue, however, the Chief Fire Officer is requested to meet with communities to thank them for their input and to explain the decision.
- (b) the issue be raised with the Fire Minister on his forthcoming visit to Merseyside on 25th February 2009.

9. 4 Year Data Analysis of Incidents
(CFO/017/09)

Members considered Report CFO/017/09 of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer concerning the Fire Data Analysis for the four years until 31st March 2008.

Resolved that:

- (a) Reports be brought back to the Authority covering the following areas:
- The 'Worst Offenders' for false alarm calls to the Service.
 - Void properties - both residential and commercial - and the work we are doing with partnership agencies to minimise the risk they pose.
- (b) Members be provided with updated statistics on:
- Firefighter injuries, particularly in relation to injuries sustained at incidents.
 - Violence at Work following the installation of CCTV on all front line appliances.
- (c) this data is to be made available to Liverpool District Management Teams.
- (d) modelling be carried out and brought back to Members regarding the future deployment of second pumps across the twenty-six stations.
- (e) the next incident analysis is to include a breakdown of Special Service and Marine Rescue calls.

10. EXEMPT Minutes of the Appointments Committee Meeting held 21st October 2008

The proceedings of the above meeting of the Appointments Committee held on 21st October 2008 were accepted as a true record and were signed accordingly by the Chair of the Authority.

11. EXEMPT Minutes of the Appointments Committee held 9th December 2008

The proceedings of the above meeting of the Appointments Committee held on 9th December 2008 were accepted as a true record and were signed accordingly by the Chair of the Authority.

12. Urgent EXEMPT Item - Purchase of 7 Fire Engines
(CFO/025/09)

Members considered and approved Report CFO/025/09 of the Executive Director of Law and Human Resources concerning the Purchase of 7 Fire Engines based on the Scania P28 Crew Cab Chassis from John Dennis in 2009 at a cost of £210,412.52 per appliance.

Date of Next Meeting

Budget Authority meeting to be held on Thursday 26th February 2009.

Close