

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

THURSDAY 19th JANUARY 2012

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillors Tony Newman (Chair), Dave Hanratty, Ted Grannell, Denise Roberts, Sharon Sullivan, Les Byrom, Colin Strickland, Linda Maloney, Lesley Rennie, Jimmy Mahon, Vi Bebb, Steve Niblock and Ian Jones.
Independent Members Linda Phillips and Carole Roberts.

Apologies for absence were received from:
Councillors Ian Lewis, Andrew Blackburn,
Robbie Ayres and Barbara Murray.

Announcements

At the opening of the meeting the Chair announced to Members that following agreement at the Executive Leadership Board:

- That this would be the last meeting where sandwiches would be provided.
- Tea/coffee and biscuits will be provided for Members at full Authority meetings only and
- The drinks machines be available for Member's use, at all other meetings and events of the Authority.
- Any Member attending straight from work or for long periods of time and require a sandwich they are to contact Democratic Services prior to their arrival for arrangements to be made.

On behalf of the Authority the Chair offered his condolences to Councillors Lewis and Blackburn for their recent losses.

1. Preliminary Matters

The Authority considered if there were any declarations of interest, matters of urgency or any items of business that may require the exclusion of the press and public due to the disclosure of exempt information.

- (a) There were no declarations of interest in relation to any item of business on the agenda.
- (b) There were no additional items on the agenda which were determined as a matter of urgency.
- (c) Two items of business on the agenda – **Item 8 and item 9** required the exclusion of the press and public due to the disclosure of exempt information.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Authority held on 13th December 2011 were submitted for approval as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

3. Financial Review 2011/12 – April to June

(CFO/094/11)

Members considered report CFO/094/11 of the Deputy Chief Executive concerning the financial position, both revenue and capital for the Authority for 2011/12. This report was previously considered by the Audit and Value for Money Scrutiny Panel on 8th September 2011.

Members resolved that:

(a) The review of the revenue and capital position for 2011/12 be approved

4. The Localism Act 2011: Implications for MFRA.

(CFO/007/12)

Members considered report CFO/007/12 of the Clerk to the Authority concerning the implications of the Localism Act 2011 for Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority and options with regards to the governance of Standards.

Members noted that the report referred to in paragraph 40 of this report dealing with the matter of pay policy for Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority, would be submitted to a future meeting.

Members resolved that:

(a) The implications for Fire Authorities contained in the Localism Act be noted.

(b) The application of predetermination matter as laid out in paragraph 15 be approved.

(c) The adoption of a “pan Merseyside” Code of Conduct be approved.

(d) The draft Code of Conduct at Appendix A subject to any amendments by other Authorities be adopted.

(e) The retention of the Current Register of Interests until such time as there may be Regulations published relating to pecuniary interests be approved.

(f) A decision regarding future arrangements for the Standards Committee be deferred to a future meeting.

5. Future of the Fire Service College

(CFO/014/12)

Members considered Report CFO/014/12 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning the future of the Fire Service College.

Members resolved that:

- (a) The proposal from Neil O'Connor to pay £1.00 to become members of a Limited Liability Partnership to achieve a stake in the Fire Service College be approved.
- (b) In the absence of more detailed information about risk, the proposal to invest Authority reserves in the Fire Service College be declined.

6. Unwanted Fire Signals

(CFO/015/12)

Members considered report CFO/015/12 and attached Equality Impact Assessment of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer concerning a risk based approach to dealing with Automatic Fire Alarm actuations and any resulting Unwanted Fire Signals.

Members resolved that:

- (a) The adoption of the risk based approach to dealing with Automatic Fire Alarm (AFA) systems and any resulting Unwanted Fire Signals (UwFS) as advanced in this report be approved.
- (b) Regular updates be provided to Community Safety Scrutiny Panels detailing the outcomes regarding the status of the risk based approach to dealing with AFA.

7. Project Watersave Outcomes

(CFO/023/12)

Members considered Report CFO/023/12 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning the positive outcomes of Project Watersave.

Members resolved that:

- (a) The positive outcome detailed within this report and the continued involvement of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service in the development of national and international operational response capability through the maintenance of Watersave module on the CECIS, be noted and supported by the Authority.
- (b) Thanks to all staff involved be passed on, on behalf of the Authority.
