

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
12th FEBRUARY 2013

MINUTES

Present: **Councillors Dave Hanratty (Chair)**, Linda Maloney, Les Byrom, Robbie Ayres, Vi Bebb, Andrew Blackburn, Darren Dodd, Roy Gladden, Ted Grannell, John Joseph Kelly, Jimmy Mahon, Pat Moloney, Barbara Murray, Tony Newman, Steve Niblock, Lesley Rennie, Denise Robert, and Sharon Sullivan

1. Preliminary Matters

The Authority considered the identification of declarations of interest, urgent items of business, and any exempt items.

- a) there were no declarations of interest by individual Members in relation to any item of business on the agenda;
- b) there were no additional items of business which the Chair determined should be considered as matters of urgency;
- c) there were no items of business which required the exclusion of the press a public during consideration thereof because of the possibility of the disclosure of exempt information.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 20th December 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

**3. North West Fire and Rescue Authority Breathing Apparatus Peer Assessment
(CFO/016/13)**

Members considered Report CFO/016/13 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning the outcome of the North West Breathing Apparatus (BA) Peer Assessment of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority's BA Department which was undertaken in December.

Members Resolved that:

The excellent results and the points of notable practice identified during the MFRA BA peer assessment be noted.

4. Impact of the Budget Cuts on the Dynamic Reserve September Update (CFO/019/13)

Members considered Report CFO/019/13 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning an update on the impact of budget cuts in years 1 and 2 of the spending review on the Dynamic Reserve (appliance availability).

Members Resolved that:

- a) The impact of the cuts on appliance availability be noted, and
- b) The continued use of delegated powers by the Chief Fire Officer for operational management under the Authority's scheme of delegation, in order to mitigate the impact of the budget cuts on operational response, be noted.

5. Task and Finish Group: Structure and Allowances (CFO/015/13)

Members considered Report CFO/015/13 of the Authority's Task & Finish Group concerning their recommendations following scrutiny of the Authority Structure and Members' Allowances.

Members Resolved that:

- a) the Task and Finish Group, comprising of Councillors Niblock, Dodd, and Moloney, be thanked for their work on these issues; and
- b) the Clerk to the Authority be instructed to provide a revised Authority Structure for approval by the Authority's AGM; and
- c) the Deputy Chief Executive be instructed to incorporate a 10% reduction in the Members' Allowances Budget phased over a period of 4 years from June 2013, into the overall Budget recommendations for 2013/14; and
- d) the Clerk to the Authority be instructed to draft a revised scheme of Members' Allowances based upon the approved Budget Resolution, for approval at the Authority AGM.

6. **Consultation on Mutualisation in Fire and Rescue Authorities (CFO/021/13)**

Members considered Report CFO/021/13 of the Deputy Chief Executive concerning the response to the consultation on Mutualisation in Fire and Rescue Authorities as proposed by the Director of Fire, Resilience and Emergencies of the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Members Resolved that:

The proposed response to the letter (attached as Appendix A to the report) be approved, which will make clear that:

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority, whilst exploring all options to minimise the impact of cuts does not at this time, recognise how any of its services would improve within a mutual. In particular MFRA is concerned with the costs associated with the setting up and establishment of any mutual without full guaranteed long term funding from the Government.

Recognition of Service

Members wished to note and congratulate Group Manager (Control) Glynis Lomax who was awarded the Queens Fire Service Medal in the New Years Honours List.

Close

Next Meeting: 26th February 2013