

# **MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**22 OCTOBER 2013**

## **MINUTES**

**Present:** Cllr Dave Hanratty (Chair) Councillors Les Byrom, Linda Maloney, Robbie Ayres, Andrew Blackburn, Roy Gladden, Ted Grannell, John Kelly, Pat Moloney, Barbara Murray, Tony Newman, Steve Niblock, Jean Stapleton and Sharon Sullivan

**Also Present:**

**Apologies of absence were received from:** Cllr Vi Bebb, Cllr Jimmy Mahon, Cllr Lesley Rennie and Cllr Denise Roberts

Chairs Announcements

Members to Note the Change in date of the Annual Meeting for 2014 due to changes of Local Elections to run with the European Elections, and Diary Commitments of Officers, the date of the Annual meeting will be 26<sup>th</sup> June 2014

Members to remain for the Members Code of Conduct training following this meeting.

Members are to attend an additional Strategy event 2pm on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2013

Members visit to Stations in the St Helens District 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at HQ for 9.45am

**1. Preliminary Matters**

The Authority considered the identification of any declarations of interest, matters of urgency or items that would require the exclusion of the press and public due to the disclosure of exempt information.

**Resolved that:**

- a) no declarations of interest were made by individual Members in relation to any item of business on the Agenda
- b) no additional items of business were determined by the Chair to be considered as matters of urgency; and
- c) no items of business required the exclusion of the press and public during consideration thereof because of the possibility of the disclosure of exempt information, as no Member wished to speak to part two of the

minutes of the previous meeting which were exempt under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the authority, held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2013, part 1 one open minutes and part two exempt minutes, exempt under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

**3. Community Fire Protection Policy And Risk Based Strategy**

(CFO/122/13)

Members considered report CFO/122/13 of the Chief Fire Officer regarding amendments to the revised Community Fire Protection Policy (Appendix A) and the introduction of the new Community Fire Protection Risk Based Strategy (Appendix B).

The Chair requested that Members who sit on other Board and Panel meetings such as planning committees, consider water provision and suppression systems included in proposed plans.

Resolved that:

The amended Fire Protection Policy and Service Instruction for the Protection Risk Based Strategy be approved.

**4. Risk Based Response To Automatic Fire Alarms - Phase 2**

(CFO/123/13)

Members considered report CFO123/13 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning progress of the phased implementation of the new Unwanted Fire Signals (UwFS) protocol, the outcome of the stakeholder consultations regarding go-live of Phase 2, and the outcomes of the revised risk assessment for the implementation of Phase 2.

It was noted that appropriate arrangements for Schools in the St Helens district be taken up with the appropriate officers for that area, and appropriate arrangements put in place.

Resolved that:

- a. The implementation of Phase 2 of the UwFS protocol for November 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 as advanced in this report, be approved;
- b. The current protocol be extended to cover the 24 hour period and exempt sleeping risk, such as hospitals, hotels and hostels, due to the risk to the safety of the Community and to responding Firefighters in the event of

any delay in response arising from the failure to develop a timely back-up call to the Authority;

- c. Significant sleeping risk premises (e.g. Hospitals, Care Homes, Hotels and Hostels ) are automatically exempted during night-time hours;
- d. The decision to charge for Unwanted Fire Signals be reviewed at a later meeting, and further work be completed to identify a suitable methodology.

**5. The Living Wage**

(CFO/111/13)

Members considered report CFO/111/13 of the Chief Fire Officer, which the Authority requested, at the meeting on 7th May 2013, regarding the Living Wage. Detail outlined the Living Wage and its comparator, the National Minimum Wage (NMW), Identification of the number of the Authority's employees who are currently employed below the Living wage and a costing of how much it would be to raise these employees to this level of payment.

**Resolved that:**

- a. The content of the report be noted;
- b. The adoption of the Living Wage at the time of the 2014/15 Budget Setting process at which point the Living Wage increase in November could be factored into the overall budget, as changes could see an increase in wage costs to the Authority and potentially the number of employees who would be eligible for the enhanced payment be agreed, and;
- c. Payment to all eligible employees be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014

Close

Date of next meeting Tuesday, 3 December 2013

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_