

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

7TH MAY 2013

MINUTES

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

Apologies for Absence received from: Councillors Darren Dodd and Ted Grannell

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 made by individual Members in relation to items of business on the agenda.
- b) The following additional item of business was determined by the Chair to be considered as a matter of urgency;
 - **Urgent Item – Discipline Procedures – Management Levels**
- c) The following item of business required the exclusion of the press and public during consideration thereof, due to the disclosure of exempt information:
 - **Item 12 – EXEMPT Mesothelioma Case**

At the start of the meeting, the Chair proposed that the additional urgent item be considered following agenda Item 11 within the open session of the meeting and prior to Agenda Item 12, which would be considered in closed session.

The Authority agreed to this amendment to the Agenda.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 9th April 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

3. **Minutes of the Social Growth & Localism Sub-Committee Held On 13th September 201**

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Social Growth & localism Sub- Committee held on 13th September 2012, were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

4. **Minutes of the Consultation & Negotiation Committee Held On 26th March 2013**

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Consultation & Negotiation Committee held on 26th March 2013, were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

5. **Minutes of the Community Safety & Protection Committee Held On 28th March 2013**

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Community Safety & Protection Committee held on 28th March 2013, were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

6. **Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee Held On 2nd April 2013**

The Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee held on 2nd April 2013, were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

7. **Overview Of Fatalities In Accidental Dwelling Fires During 2012/13 And Retrospectively (CFO/051/13)**

Members were provided with a presentation by Area Manager Myles Platt – Director of Prevention & Protection and Michelle Rasdale – Business Intelligence Analyst. The presentation provided Members with an overview of the analysis of fatal fires over the past 9 year period and detailed how the analysis can be used in terms of targeting limited resources and encouraging data sharing with other organisations and partners.

Members then considered Report CFO/051/13 of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer concerning fatalities occurring in accidental dwelling fires during the financial year 2012/13, and a historical analysis of fatality data.

The Chair of the Authority moved that an additional recommendation be added to the report as follows:

“Request that this report be shared with each District Council Leader and Chief Executive Officer, with a letter thanking them for their Authorities involvement in data sharing and stating the benefits of such when targeting our much reduced resources. The letter should highlight that our IRMP identifies the need to target those who are most vulnerable and at high risk of fire, within our communities and state that we therefore encourage each Authority within Merseyside to work alongside MFRA in using and expanding the data sources in delivering a safer community. Similar letters should also be sent to Age UK and other relevant organisations”.

This motion was seconded by Cllr Les Byrom.

Cllr Blackburn suggested an amendment to the motion, that the report and letter also be sent to all Opposition Leaders. This amendment was seconded by the Chair.

The amended motion was carried.

Members Resolved that:

- (a) The content of the report be noted.
- (b) The report and covering letter (as detailed above) be sent to all District Council Leaders, Chief Executive Officers, Opposition Leaders, Age UK and other relevant organisations.
- (c) Officers be instructed to look into options for providing increased safety advice around the use of candles and the possibility of involving manufactures and retailers in the provision of this safety advice.

**8. Member Development Programme & Strategy 2013-16
(CFO/048/13)**

Members considered Report CFO/048/13 of the Clerk to the Authority concerning the Members Learning & Development Programme and Strategy for 2013-16.

Members Resolved that:

- a) The revised Members' Learning & Development Strategy for 2013-16, be approved.
- b) The Member Development Programme for 2013-16, be approved.
- c) The use of the Members' Feedback form following attendance at events, be approved.

9. **Operational Information Policy**
(CFO/050/13)

Members considered Report CFO/050/13 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning an Operational Information Policy.

Members Resolved that:

The Operational Information Policy be approved.

10. **Pay Policy**
(CFO/053/13)

Members considered Report CFO/053/13 of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer concerning the Authority's Pay Policy Statement for 2013/14.

Members Resolved that:

- (a) The Authority's Pay Policy Statement for 2013/14, be approved.
- (b) Officers be instructed to bring a report back to the Authority regarding potential costs and implications around bringing the lowest paid employees rates of pay in line with the suggested "living wage" rate.

11. **Merseyside LRF Secretariat**
(CFO/054/13)

Members considered Report CFO/054/13 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning the hosting of the Merseyside Local Resilience Forum Secretariat by MFRA.

Members Resolved that:

The hosting of the Merseyside Local Resilience Forum Secretariat by MFRA with effect from August 2013, in anticipation of the full integration of this service into

the joint command and control centre, be approved.

Urgent Item

Changes To Discipline Procedure – Management Levels (CFO/055/13)

This item was determined by the Chair of the Authority to be a matter of urgency, due to the need to progress this procedure following failure to reach agreement at NJC on 19th April 2013.

Members considered report CFO/055/13 of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer concerning proposed revisions to the Discipline Procedures and the alignment of such procedures to the Fire & Rescue Services National Schemes of Conditions and the ACAS Code on Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures, particularly in relation to levels of management.

The Chair of the Authority in consultation with the Chief Fire Officer and the Labour Group, moved that the matter be referred to the Policy & Resources Committee, to consider a report from the Task & Finish Group, which is currently considering sickness and absenteeism; and that the remit of that Task & Finish Group be appropriately extended to consider issues concerning the Authority's Disciplinary Procedures, with any final decisions with regards to Disciplinary Procedures to be made by the Full Authority.

This motion was seconded by Cllr Tony Newman and agreed by the Authority.

PART 2 – EXEMPT ITEM

13. Mesothelioma Case (CFO/052/13)

Members considered Report CFO/052/13 of the Clerk to the Authority concerning a mesothelioma case.

The content of the report has already been approved by the Chair of the Authority in consultation with Senior Officers, under the provisions of Standing Order 17 of the Authority's Constitution, due to the urgency associated with the Court timetable.

Members Resolved that:

The content of the report be noted.

Close

Next Meeting: AGM 11th June 2013