

**AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE**  
**MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**  
**30<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2013**  
**MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillors Denise Roberts, Pat Moloney, and Tony Newman as an alternate for Les Byrom. Councillor Vi Bebb was present from 14:34 .

**Also present:** Councillors Dave Hanratty, and Linda Maloney.

**Apologies received from:** Councillor Les Byrom

**1. Preliminary Matters**

The Authority considered the identification of declarations of interest, any items of business deemed urgent by the Chair, and any items of business which may require the exclusion of the press and public:

- a) there were no declarations of interest by any Member, however the Deputy Chief Executive declared an interest in relation to Item 3 of the agenda as a Board Trustee of Plus Dane Housing alongside Grant Thornton who are also Board Trustees,
- 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 and public during consideration due to the possibility of the disclosure of exempt information.

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

3. **External Report – The Audit Plan for MFRA 2012/13**

Members considered the Report of the External Auditor concerning the Audit plan for 2012/13 which is working towards a closing date of September 2013. Members were asked to note a number of key areas in the report and that the Audit fee is 40% less than it was under the Audit Commission.

Resolved that:

The contents of the report be noted.

4. **Treasury Management**  
(CFO/070/13)

Members considered report CFO/070/13 of the Deputy Chief Executive concerning the Treasury Management Annual Report 2012/13.

Resolved that:

The Treasury Management Annual Report 2012/13 be noted.

5. **Annual Year End Internal Audit Report for 2012/13**  
(CFO/071/13)

Members considered report CFO/071/13 of the Deputy Chief Executive concerning the work of Internal Audit in 2012/13.

Resolved that:

The contents of the report and the favourable conclusions contained within be noted.

6. **Annual Governance Statement**  
(CFO/069/13)

Members considered report CFO/069/13 of the Deputy Chief Executive concerning the Authority's Annual Governance Statement and the annual review of the governance arrangements.

Resolved that:

- a) the 2012/13 Annual Governance Statement be agreed and signed accordingly by the Chair on behalf of the Authority.

b) the management responses to the Auditor's Risk Assessment be determined to be consistent with Members' views with the following additional comment made:

- One of the recommendations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting is for the Authority to appoint an independent person to the Performance and Scrutiny Committee and Audit Sub-Committee to ensure a thorough scrutiny process is in place.

7. **Annual Review of Gifts and Hospitality**  
(CFO/057/13)

Members considered report CFO/057/13 of the Clerk to the Authority concerning the annual review of offers of gifts and hospitality to staff of the Authority.

**Resolved that:**

The review of the processes and procedures in place for authorisation of gifts and hospitality for employees be approved.