

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

11TH OCTOBER, 2005

PRESENT: Councillor Jimmy Mahon,
Vice-Chairman in the Chair;
Councillors Les Byrom, Eddie Clein, Jack
Colbert, Kevin Firth, John George, Dave
Hanratty, Peter Johnson, Jimmy
Kendrick, Linda Maloney, Tommy Mann,
Isabel Moon, Albert Smith and Don Prout.

Apologies for absence were received from
Councillors Tony Newman, Vera Best, Ted Grannell
and Sharon Sullivan.

46. Preliminary Matters

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

Resolved that items related to Member Development, Rank to Role and Senior Officer provision for Incident Command be considered as matters of urgency as a delay would not be in the interests of the efficient operation of the Service.

47. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved that the proceedings of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 6th September, 2005 be approved as a correct record and accordingly be signed by the Vice-Chairman.

48. Decisions of the Authority and its Committees 16th May – 23rd June, 2005 (CFO/215/05)

The Authority considered and noted the contents of:-

- (A) Report CFO/215/05 of the Executive Director of Law and Human Resources concerning progress on decisions of the Authority for the period May to June 2005; and
- (B) a verbal report of the Executive Director on the action taken to encourage the proposal for political continuity in relation to "Embedding Excellence" considered at the meeting of the Authority held on 28th July, 2005.

49. Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (Contingency Planning) Regulations 2005
(CFO/177/05)

The Authority considered Report CFO/177/05 of the Executive Director of Law and Human Resources concerning the regulations which follow the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

Resolved that the report be noted and in recognition of the requirement for political leadership in the event of a major catastrophic event, appropriate arrangements be made as a part of the Member Development process for training in communication and media skills which may be required in such a scenario.

50. The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2005
(CFO/197/05)

The Authority considered the attached Report CFO/197/05 of the Executive Director of Law and Human Resources concerning the amendments to the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations.

Resolved that the report be noted.

51. Regulatory Reform (Execution of Deeds and Documents) Order 2005
(CFO/210/05)

The Authority considered Report CFO/210/05 of the Director of Law and Human Resources concerning the Regulatory Reform (Execution of Deeds and Documents) Order 2005.

Resolved that Contract Standing Orders be appropriately amended to specifically provide that documents relating to the transfer of land must be by seal and be witnessed by one Member and by the Clerk or the Chief Fire Officer.

52. Disposal of Obsolete Equipment and Vehicle Parts
(CFO/211/05)

The Authority considered Report CFO/211/05 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning the disposal of obsolete equipment and workshop equipment.

Resolved that:-

- (A) the writing off of the obsolete parts and equipment identified in Report CFO/211/05 be approved; and
- (B) the disposal of the obsolete parts and equipment, identified in the above report, to a nominated organisation for Developing World Use, be approved.

53. Draft Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006

(CFO/178/05)

The Authority considered Report CFO/178/05 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning the draft Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006.

Resolved that the report be noted.

54. Appointment of Member Champions

(CFO/213/05)

The Authority considered Report CFO/213/05 of the Executive Director of Law and Human Resources concerning the formal appointment of Members as Champions as part of the Embedding Excellence process.

Resolved that:-

- (A) the following specific Members be appointed as Champions in respect of the specified areas, as follows:-

	CHAMPION		AREA/PROJECT
(i)	Cllr Smith, Cllr Clein & Cllr Mann	-	World Firefighter Games
(ii)	Cllr George, Cllr Firth & Cllr Byrom	-	Fireworld
(iii)	Cllr Maloney, Cllr Colbert & Cllr Johnson	-	Diversity & Equality
(iv)	Cllr Mahon	-	IRMP/Modernisation
(v)	Cllr Hanratty, Cllr Sullivan & Cllr Kendrick	-	Capital of Culture
(vi)	Cllr Grannell	-	Fire Service Direct
(vii)	Cllr Prout	-	Corporate Risk
(viii)	Cllr Firth	-	E-Government
(viii)	Cllr Smith	-	Procurement; and

- (B) appropriate arrangements be made by Legal and Democratic Services for the development of specific rolemaps for each Champion in consultation with that Member(s)

55. Replacement Search and Rescue Craft – Marine Rescue Team
(CFO/216/05)

The Authority considered Report CFO/216/05 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning the tender and proposed purchase of a replacement Search and Rescue Craft, to be operated by the Marine Rescue Team.

Resolved that:-

- (A) the acquisition of a suitable replacement Search and Rescue craft for use on the River Mersey be approved;
- (B) the Chief Fire Officer be authorised to seek tenders for the craft from suitably qualified and experienced boat builders;
- (C) the Chief Fire Officer be requested to provide Members with details of the activities of the Rescue Team including the numbers of callouts and rescues made; and
- (D) the proposal made during the course of the debate on this item to establish a Member Working Party be discussed further by elected Members.

56. Member Development – Proposed Tripartite Pilot
(CFO/217/05)

The Authority considered Report CFO/217/05 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning a proposed tripartite scheme with two other Fire Authorities with a view to the furthering of elected Member engagement and involvement.

Resolved that:-

- (A) the proposal for the Authority to enter into a tripartite partnership with Staffordshire and Cleveland Fire and Rescue Services to further elected Members engagement and involvement be approved;
- (B) the partnership be run as a pilot over a timeframe to be agreed; and
- (C) the detailed terms of reference and aims and objectives of such a partnership be determined following further discussions with representatives of the three authorities.

57. Station Management
(CFO/203/05)

The Authority considered Report CFO/203/05 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning the impact of Locality Managers on the performance of their Stations over the first quarter of the current financial year.

Resolved that the Authority place on record that it considers that Station Locality Managers offer the appropriate level of management for fire stations and that therefore the proposal to revise the balance between the number of Station Locality Managers and Station Managers over time be approved.

58. Senior Officer Provision for Incident Command

(CFO/219/05)

The Authority considered Report CFO/219/05 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning a report on the “Analysis of Senior Officer Provision for Incident Command Purposes”.

Resolved that:-

- (A) the recommendations contained within the report “Analysis of Senior Officer Provision for Incident Command Purposes” and its underpinning documentation be approved as the basis for consultation with the Representative Bodies;
- (B) the Chief Fire Officer be requested to report back with the outcomes of the consultation in order for further consideration to take place during the Budget Setting process; and
- (C) the Chief Fire Officer also be requested to provide Members with detailed information prior to the Budget Setting process concerning the current provided car schemes for employees and details of the staff who qualify for such provided vehicles.

59. Rank to Role

Resolved that the verbal update from the Deputy Chief Fire Officer regarding recent developments in the Rank to Role process and the proposal that this matter be considered in more detail at the impending Members Seminar, be noted.
