

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

7th APRIL 2005

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

**Apologies for absence were received from
Councillors Tony Newman, Ted Grannell and
Peter Johnson**

**Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the
Authority welcomed as an observer Val Slater
from the team currently undertaking the
Comprehensive Performance Assessment of the
Service**

91. Councillor Peter Johnson

The Authority were informed of the recent accident which had occurred in which Councillor Johnson had received serious injuries.

Resolved that the warmest wishes of all Authority Members and Officers be sent to Councillor Johnson for a speedy recovery from his injuries.

92. Preliminary Matters

The Authority considered preliminary issues and noted there were no declarations of interest, matters of urgency or items that require the exclusion of the press and public

93. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The proceedings of the previous meeting of the Authority held on 9th February 2005 were approved as a correct record and were thereupon signed by the Vice-Chair accordingly.

94. North West Fire and Rescue Management Board

The proceedings of the meeting of the North West Fire and Rescue Management Board held on 23rd March 2005 were submitted for the information of Members.

95. Proposed New Arrangements for Firefighters Pensions (CFO/67/05)

The Authority considered –

- 1) Report CFO/67/05 of the Executive Director of Finance concerning proposed new financial arrangements for Firefighters Pensions as set out in the consultation paper “New Proposals for Financial Arrangements for Firefighters’ Pensions”; and
- 2) an associated presentation by the Executive Director of Finance outlining the key issues and informing Members of a meeting to be held of the Fire Finance Officers Network with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to discuss the issues in detail.

Resolved that, subject to any amendments if exemplifications are received from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the draft response to the consultation document, as set out in Report CFO/67/05, be approved for submission.

96. Review of Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy and Strategy (CFO/68/05)

The Authority considered Joint Report CFO/68/05 of the Chief Fire Officer and Executive Director of Finance concerning a review of the anti – fraud and corruption policy and strategy which was last produced in August 2003.

Resolved that the revised anti fraud and corruption policy and strategy be approved.

**97. Representation at Armistice Day 2005 – Ypres, Belgium
(CFO/02/05)**

The Authority considered Report CFO/02/05 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning the proposed annual representation of the Authority at Armistice Day in Ypres in Belgium.

Resolved that –

- A) the Service be represented annually on Armistice Day at the City of Ypres in Belgium; and
- B) in 2005, the visit should not exceed four days, departing on 9th November and returning on 12th November and should consist of 12 representatives in total, including four appropriately nominated Members of the Authority.

**98. Integrated Risk Management Plan 1 – Year End Review
(CFO/70/05)**

The Authority considered –

- 1) Report CFO/70/05 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning the year end review of the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) Year One; and
- 2) Circular EMP/10/05 from the Fire Brigades National Employers concerning the Co-Responding Scheme. This states that legal advice has concluded that it can be clearly argued an obligation to participate in co-responding is incorporated in fire-fighters' contracts of employment by virtue of Grey Book provisions. Of particular relevance in this regard is that the Grey Book incorporates the firefighters role map into contracts of employment and specifically states that fire and rescue services can require "any reasonable activity to be carried out by individual employees within his or her role map".

Resolved that –

- A) the performance in the delivery of the first Integrated Risk Management Plan and associated actions be noted;
- B) all staff be thanked for their role in assisting in the preparation and successful delivery of the IRMP Year One;

- C) a specific message of support for the work of the Search and Rescue Team be sent from Members of the Authority;
- D) the issue relating to the costs of calls related to a feature of the mobilising system called “Enhanced Information Service for Emergency Callers” (EISEC) at the Command and Control Centre be investigated by the Chief Fire Officer and reported to Members;

Note: Prior to the conclusion of the meeting the information was received that the total cost associated with the EISEC feature was £7,000 per annum.

- E) further ideas on how Members can develop their community leadership role in promoting the many community safety initiatives being undertaken by the service be considered separately at a future meeting.

**99. Station Service Plans 2005/06
(CFO/66/05)**

The Authority considered –

- 1) Report CFO/66/05 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning the Station Service Plans for 2005/06; and
- 2) a circulated example of one of the Station Service Plans.

Resolved that the Station Service Plans for 2005/06 be approved.

**100. Southport Retained Staffing Progress Report
(CFO/64/05)**

The Authority considered Report CFO/64/05 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning the current status in respect of the retained staffing of the third appliance at Southport.

Resolved that –

- A) the progress of Integrated Risk Management Plan Action Point 45 be noted and this action be confirmed as having been implemented; and
- B) further information on the 8 incidents referred to in paragraph 8 of the report be submitted to the Sefton Members and to Councillor Firth.

Post Meeting Note – The following amendment was submitted to Members in respect of paragraph 8 of Report CFO/64/05 -

“At paragraph 8 of Report CFO/64/05 it implies that the appliance has been in attendance at 9 incidents since commencing retained fire cover on 23rd January 2005. The term “attended” in this context is an inaccurate description in that the appliance was assigned to 8 of the incident logs already attended by the other appliances at Southport but did not actually attend the incident ground. The details of the multiple rescue incident are accurate.”

**101. Corporate Risk Management Register
(CFO/71/05)**

The Authority considered Report CFO/71/05 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning the Corporate Risk Management Register.

Resolved that the Corporate Risk Management Register as appended to Report CFO/71/05 be endorsed.

Note: In the course of the discussion on this item the issue of water supply was raised and Councillor John George thereupon declared a personal interest in this aspect of the matter, arising from the pension he receives as a former employee of United Utilities. However he did not regard this as a prejudicial interest and accordingly did not withdraw from the meeting.

**102. Mersey Partnership
(CFO/56/05)**

The Authority considered Report CFO/56/05 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning the Mersey Partnership.

Resolved that –

- A) the proposal for the Authority to become Members of the Mersey Partnership be approved; and
- B) the nature of representation on the Partnership be ascertained and Members be informed accordingly.

**103. Response Motorcycle Project
(CFO/65/05)**

The Authority considered Report CFO/65/05 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning an update on the Response Motorcycle Project.

Resolved that the report be noted and further updates on the progress of the initiative be provided at the appropriate time.

**104. Home Computer and Pushbike Initiative
(CFO/69/05)**

The Authority considered Report CFO/69/05 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning the proposed introduction of a lease scheme for Home Computers and Pushbikes for employees,

Resolved that the resolution of the meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee of 24th March upon consideration of this matter be endorsed and therefore the proposal to appoint the company Onecall Technologies Limited to provide the lease service to those employees who are eligible and wish to take advantage of the scheme, be approved.

105. Member Development Charter

The Authority considered a brief verbal update on the progress of the initiative to achieve the North West Employers Elected Member Development Charter and draft related documents which had initially been submitted to the Member Training Liaison Group prior to the meeting.

Resolved that the update be noted and the meeting of the Management Board to be held on 12th April 2005 be requested to consider progress of the Member Development Project in detail, with a view to providing appropriate approval to the strategy for achieving the Charter in 2005 and an associated Learning and Development Programme.

106. Glossary of Terms

The Authority noted with thanks, the submission to them for information, as requested, of a glossary of useful Fire Service related terminology.
