

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

of the

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority

11th May, 2006

PRESENT: Councillors Dave Hanratty, Tony Newman,
Linda Maloney, Don Prout, Kevin Firth,
Les Byrom and Eddie Clein.

(Cllr. Newman in the Chair)

**ALSO
PRESENT:** Councillors Ted Grannell, Peter Johnson
Isobel Moon and Jimmy Mahon.

**Apologies for absence were received from
Councillor Peter Astbury.**

64. Preliminary Matters

The Committee considered the identification of interests, items of urgency or items requiring the exclusion of the press and public – there were none.

65. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolved that:-

The proceedings of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 24th March, 2006 be approved as a true record and be signed accordingly by the Chairman.

66. The Fire and Rescue National Framework 2006- 2008
(CFO/84/06)

The Committee considered the report CFO/84/06 of the Chief Fire Officer that concerned the Fire and Rescue National Framework 2006-2008.

It was resolved that:-

- (a) the report be noted; and
- (b) the provisions of the framework document, as summarised in Appendix A, be noted; and
- (c) the Chief Fire Officer be requested to put arrangements into place to ensure that the Authority meets its obligations under the Framework.

67. Audit of Best Value Performance Plan 2005-2006
(CFO/88/06)

The Committee considered report CFO/88/06 of the Chief Fire Officer that concerned the Audit of Best Value Performance Plan for 2005-2006.

It was resolved that the report be noted.

68. Office Accommodation Strategy
(CFO/92/06)

The Committee considered report CFO/92/06 of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer that concerned Office Accommodation Strategy for the Threat Response Group.

Upon the invitation of the chairman, Mr. Ackers (UNISON) spoke requesting UNISON involvement during the canteen design process.

Resolved :-

to note, the implementation of the proposed office development strategy by way of:

- (i) Provision of office accommodation within the Knowsley Suite for the Threat Response Group.
- (ii) The formation of two small meeting rooms within the rest area adjacent to the canteen.
- (iii) Upgrading of the current kitchen and the provision of new seating and a new design for the canteen.

69. Headquarters Catering Arrangements

(CFO/94/06)

The committee considered report CFO/94/06 of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer that concerned Headquarters catering arrangements.

It was resolved:

To approve the proposed interim arrangements for catering facilities at Headquarters and that the Chief Fire Officer reports back to a future committee meeting with a long term arrangement plan.

70. Extension of Audit Appointment

(CFO/89/06)

The Committee considered report CFO/89/06 that concerned the extension of Audit Appointment.

It was resolved that:-

The Committee express its satisfaction with the proposal for the extension of the current appointment of the District Auditor for 2006/07.

71. Bullying and Harassment Policy

(CFO/86/06)

The Committee considered the report CFO/86/06 of the Executive Director of Law and HR that concerned the revised Bullying and Harassment Policy.

It was resolved that:-

- (a) the Committee approve the Bullying and Harassment policy (attached as Appendix A) as the foundation for consultation with the Representative Bodies, and, on the basis of
- (b) a twelve week period of consultation with the Representative Bodies (AMICUS, FBU, GMWU and UNISON),
- (c) the policy be referred back to the Authority with the results of the consultation period for further consideration if appropriate.

72. As an additional item, the Authority were informed of the new Department for Communities and Local Government with the new Minister for Fire being Angela Smith