

**POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE  
(Resumed Meeting)**

**of the**

**MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**8th September, 2006**

**PRESENT: Councillor Don Prout, Chair;  
Councillors Les Byrom, Eddie Clein,  
Kevin Firth, Dave Hanratty,  
Linda Maloney, Isabel Moon and Tony  
Newman.**

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**Councillors, Vera Best, Jack Colbert,  
John George, Ted Grannell, Peter  
Johnson, Paula Keaveney and Sharon  
Sullivan also attended.**

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**Apologies for absence were received from Committee  
Member Betty Lowe, M.B.E. and also from Councillors  
Jimmy Mahon and Tommy Mann**

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The Chair commenced the meeting at 1.00 p.m. and immediately called for an adjournment of 45 minutes to allow for discussion by political groups on the issues which had been raised at the preceding Members Seminar.

Upon the resumption of the meeting, the Chief Fire Officer and elected Members thanked for their hard work and dedication, all the staff, many of whom were in attendance, who had provided alternative fire and rescue cover during the recent period of industrial action.

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**47. Preliminary Matters**

The Committee considered declarations of interest, items of urgency or items which may require the exclusion of the press and public.

Resolved that the additional documentation being considered at this resumed meeting relating to the issues arising from industrial action by the Fire Brigades Union and specifically the report relating to the MACC consultation proposals and the verbal report on support appliances be considered as matters of urgency as a delay would not be in the interests of the efficient operation of the Service.

**48. Minutes of Last Meeting**

Resolved that the proceedings of the last meeting of the Committee, which was adjourned on 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2006 be approved as a correct record and be signed accordingly by the Chair.

**49. Mobilising & Communications Centre Consultation - Proposals**  
(CFO/172/06)

The Committee considered Report CFO/172/06 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning the responses which have been received following the consultation process which was undertaken in respect of the proposals to vary staffing levels at the Mobilising and Communications Centre.

Resolved that the Chief Fire Officer be requested to undertake a full financial and risk analysis of the proposals put forward by staff and be requested to report back to the Authority at the earliest possible time.

**50. Support Appliances**

The Committee considered a verbal report of the Chief Fire Officer concerning the outcome of consultation relating to proposals for four support appliances and the revision to such proposals following the consultation which had been considered in detail at a Members Seminar held prior to this meeting.

Resolved that –

- A) in the light of the revised proposals being made by the Authority following the consultation process in respect of MACC staffing and Support Appliances, the Fire Brigades Union be invited to suspend its further proposed period of industrial action in September with a view to engaging in discussions to determine a solution to the dispute;
  - B) the local Joint Secretaries be requested to meet as a matter of urgency in order to agree and report back to Members on the matters on which there is agreement relating to the settlement of the current dispute, areas which cannot be agreed and also to assess the need to seek assistance and support from the national secretaries in resolving the dispute;
  - C) this meeting be adjourned and resumed at 1.00 p.m. on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September to continue to consider the progress of the present industrial action and the associated issues at the core of the dispute and therefore the Chief Fire Officer be requested to bring forward the information requested above and also to report in detail and make recommendations as appropriate upon the issues relating to MACC staffing and Support Appliances discussed at this meeting and at the prior Members Seminar.
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