

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

of the

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

21st August, 2006

**PRESENT: Councillor Don Prout in the Chair
Councillors Les Byrom, Eddie Clein,
Kevin Firth, Dave Hanratty, Betty Lowe
MBE, Linda Maloney, Vera Best , and
Tony Newman,**

**Councillors, John George, Jimmy Mahon
Jack Colbert, Ted Grannell, Tommy Mann,
Paula Keaveney , Isabel Moon and Peter
Johnson also attended**

**Apologies for absence were received from
Councillor Sharon Sullivan**

24 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:-

- (A) Three additional items of business relating to a CFO/158/06 Implementation of Low Level of Activity and Risk Crewing system at Formby and Newton Fire Stations. Letter from the Deputy Secretary of the Fire Brigades Union to the Chief Fire Officer and a letter from the Fire Protection Association to the Fire Brigade Union.be considered as matters of urgency as a delay would not be in the interests of the efficient operation of the Service; and
- (B) the press and public be excluded from consideration of the item concerning the correspondence between the electoral reform society on the basis of the exemptions set out in paragraphs 3 and 5 of the Local Government Act 1972 and that the Committee is satisfied that in all the circumstances the public interest in making the exclusion outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

25 Minutes of Last Meeting

Resolved that the proceedings of the last adjourned meeting of the Committee held on 16th August be approved as a correct record and be signed accordingly by the Chair.

26 Implementation of the Low Level of Activity and Risk Crewing System at Formby and Newton Fire Stations
(CFO/158/06)

The Committee considered Report CFO/158/06 of the Chief Fire Officer concerning an update of a request to proposed posting of the Watch Managers to Newton with the remit to work with personnel on station to identify and address the issues surrounding accommodation. In the light of these issues the Committee also considered -

- (1) a report on the Implementation of the Low Level of Activity and Risk Crewing system at Formby and Newton Fire Stations

Resolved that the Authority approve -

- (A) the need for a further report is brought to the Authority for the 8th of September, outlining more fully the options for taking the proposals forward, with particular concern to the stations mentioned within the report and the impact any recommendations would have on the ongoing PFI project.
- (B) the need to provide a report to the Authority for the 8th of September concerning the proposed new shift pattern which emanated from the personnel employed at Newton Fire Station

27. Letter from the Fire Brigades Union (FBU)

The Committee considered –

- (1) The letter from the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) in reply to the Chief Fire Officers concerning the request to exempt Southport, Upton and Birkenhead from the proposed Industrial

Resolved that -

- (A) the Authority note the letter from the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) to the Chief Fire Officer and that a suitable response be drafted

28 Letter from the Fire Protection Association (FPA) to the Fire Brigades Union (FBU)

The Committee, considered –

- (1) The letter from the Fire Protection Association (FPA) to the Fire Brigade Union (FBU) concerning their response to the proposed action by the FBU; and in the light of these issues -

Resolved that -

- (A) the letter and its contents be noted

29. Result of Fire Brigade Union (FBU) Ballot

The Committee considered as a matter of urgency

- (1) A Fax message from the Fire Brigade Union (FB U) to Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority indicating the results of the Ballot for Strike action, as a result of this fax the Committee considered -

Resolved that -

- (A) that the Fax be noted and that the Policy & Finance Committee, be reconvened on Tuesday 22nd August 2006 at 13.00 hrs to consider the Authority's response to the announced result

The Meeting was adjourned and to be re-convened on Tuesday 22nd August at 13.00hrs, to consider the response from the Fire Brigade Union (FBU) Ballot and the Authority's response.
