

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> July 2008

## **ALL MEMBERS**

### **Merseyside Brigade Committee Resolution**

Dear Brother/Sister,

All Merseyside FBU members and officials will be aware that the following resolution was passed at the Brigade Committee of April 17<sup>th</sup> 2008.

***“This Brigade Committee condemns the Merseyside Fire Authority Budget resolution and its intention to replace emergency fire appliances with Small Fires Units across Merseyside.***

***Therefore, to protect against fire appliance downgrading, firefighting with a crew of three and the loss of firefighter jobs in Merseyside, this branch asks permission from the FBU Executive Council to ballot Merseyside FBU members to support a complete ban on any working on, or volunteering for, Small Fires Units in Merseyside”***

Since that meeting this resolution has been unanimously supported by the FBU Regional Committee and the Executive Council of the FBU who have also given permission for every Merseyside FBU member to be balloted on the single issue contained within the resolution.

The Emergency Brigade Committee Meeting of Monday July 14<sup>th</sup> 2008 has unanimously agreed that this resolution should be taken to all branch/sectional and departmental meetings of Merseyside FBU members for discussion and for officials from those meetings to report back to the Brigade Committee within four weeks.

Watch, Branch, Sectional and Divisional FBU officials have asked for all the relevant information with regards to this resolution for our members across Merseyside. Members are once again reminded that [www.merseysidefbu.co.uk](http://www.merseysidefbu.co.uk) is available and accessible for all FBU members and that much of the information requested is contained within those circulars, in particular in the “**Latest news**” link, the **All Members dated 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2008**.

This All members circular is also aimed at addressing other issues and relevant points raised by our members at this current round of branch meetings with the following information for our members and officials:

- There has never been an agreement on the imposition TRV's or SFU's between MF&RS and the FBU in Merseyside
- The FBU Brigade Officials and Brigade Committee have held the consistent belief that these transit vans would replace fire appliances and cut firefighter jobs in the long term since their imposition in 2004
- To justify the downgrading of fire appliances and job cuts on LLAR stations and proposed LLAR stations, management are using SFU's within those stn areas
- Merseyside FBU have always viewed these transit vans as a political tool which is why there has always been premium rate overtime offered to volunteer for them, unlike other contracts and extra hours working which were paid at "flat rate" or less
- FBU members will also be aware that despite the use of pre-arranged overtime, fire appliances across Merseyside stations are still regularly off the run due to "overtime budgets" being spent but it obvious that more finances could be made available by simply not using the SFU at all and keeping more firefighters and fire appliances on the run for full shifts
- It is no coincidence that Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service have already replaced front line fire appliance with TRV's or that MFA now wish to do the same
- The FBU in Merseyside have always believed that the tens of thousands of tax payers pounds spent on TRV'S/SFU's could and should be spent on operational firefighters and appliances, not political tools and expensive gimmicks
- The ballot is for members to not work on or volunteer for TRV's or SFU's in Merseyside, the ballot for Merseyside members does not involve any other issue other than voting on whether they wish to work on SFU's or not
- The Brigade officials have recommended that all FBU members attend their Branch meetings and listen to the information and debate and the reasons for a ballot of our members to make a decision on SFU's
- The FBU believe that there is a breach of Tech Bulletin 1/97 and firefighting with a crew of three and that these genuine H&S concerns have been ignored by MF&RS management yet they now wish to consult with us for SFU's to respond under blue lights and horns, a further indication why certain one and two pump stations should view with concern the replacing of fire appliances with SFU's
- FBU members are once again reminded that this ballot is for our members to express their support for, or otherwise, a complete ban on staffing or working on SFU's, the democratic decision and support of the FBU members in Merseyside will inform the Brigade Officials and Brigade Committee accordingly

Any members or branches requiring any further information should contact your FBU reps or the FBU office by phone or e-mail.

Yours in Unity

Mark Dunne  
Brigade Chair