

Date: Friday, 29 May 2009

ALL MEMBERS

EXPANSION OF LLAR SYSTEM – E5 ECCLESTON.

Dear Brother/Sister,

At the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority meeting held yesterdays date at Bridle Road, the Authority agreed that a 12 week consultation period with the Fire Brigades Union should commence in relation to a proposal to extend the LLAR system of work to a further fire station, this time Eccleston. It was made abundantly clear by the Chief Fire Officer that the Service will continue seeking to extend LLAR throughout the Service.

It was pleasing to note that Authority were very clear that the decision was to agree that the proposal goes to consultation only and is not a final decision regarding LLAR at Eccleston although we are not so foolish to believe that given the Authorities voting record on cuts and specifically LLAR that this proposal will be any easier in persuading the councillors against this further expansion.

The Service referred to the main driver for this proposal, yet again, being the declared budget deficit, the Union will continue to patiently point out that the FBU in association with the Audit Commission and Govt Ministers identified a *minimum* £23.125million pounds was saved by MF&RS in the last 4 years, some of those savings should now be redirected back to frontline services rendering this proposal totally unnecessary.

Members will also be aware that the FBU are in dispute with the MF&RA in relation to a misinterpretation of the LLAR definition document which is being pursued nationally, we are fast losing patience on the lack of real progress in resolving this dispute and may well be forced into seeking direction off our members on this issue.

Yours in unity

L Skarratts
Brigade Secretary