

Date: 19th September 2006

ALL MEMBERS

Fire Authority Meeting September 19th

Dear Brother/Sister,

The support shown by striking FBU members today at the lobby of the Fire Authority was both touching and absolutely outstanding. **Over 175** of our members turned out to show the same **solidarity, support, strength and determination** that has been evident from the first minute of strike action in Merseyside. It is completely obvious to every single person attending that meeting today that Merseyside FBU members are unwavering and will not allow stunts, tricks or propaganda to unnerve them.

All members were rightly allowed to attend the public meeting and what followed will no doubt already have been reported back to our members and picket lines. Councillors on the Fire Authority demand a meeting with FBU officials and members away from any officers of MF&RS they also stated that they “**do not like what they are hearing**” from our picket lines and are, at last, hearing a “**totally different**” side of the story. FBU members across the whole of Merseyside should now be inviting fire authority members to our picket lines for a cup of tea and a friendly chat.

Fire Authority councillors also stated “**that whoever’s idea it was to not hold talks again till Saturday is a disgrace**” a statement that the FBU totally support. The Authority agreed to meet in private to try to start talks to resolve this dispute as a matter of urgency. Les Skarratts also told the Fire Authority that stalling tactics **would not upset or alter** the FBU’s position and that the FBU were ready for meaningful constructive talks at any time, including tonight. A point not lost on all the Fire Authority members.

The Brigade Officials thank all of those members who attended today and all the members who continue to actively campaign to see a speedy end to this dispute.

Yours in Unity

Mark Dunne
Brigade Chair