

Date: Wednesday, 16 January 2008

## **ALL MEMBERS**

### **LLAR DECISION - LIB DEM NEWS-SHEET**

Dear Brother/Sister,

Please find enclosed a newssheet circulated throughout Liverpool that confirms the thoughts of the lib dem group in Liverpool, arrived at after both the FBU and the Chief Fire Officer presented both sides of the argument at a well attended lib dem group meeting at the Liverpool town hall recently.

You will note that the lib dem group leader on the Fire Authority, Cllr Eddie Clein, is pictured in front of Allerton Fire Station with a 'Save Our Fire Service' placard, sentiments the FBU fully agree with. We understand that the lib dem group on the fire authority are taking the proper stance of voting against the LLAR proposal at Allerton and Belle Vale Fire Stations; again we applaud and support that stance.

The matter now solely lies in the hands of the Labour group who have yet to indicate their thoughts on this matter, but it must be the case that Labour politicians representing Merseyside people should follow the lib dem line or in fact state that they arrived at a decision to oppose LLAR at Allerton and Belle Vale prior to the circulation of the lib dem news-sheet the Liverpool Voice. Not to do so will be the clearest failure of the Labour Group.

All councillors on the fire authority, including the Labour group councillors are in receipt of the FBU submission on LLAR which proves that both stations do not meet the required criteria for LLAR and the decision must be to vote against it.

This clearly is a cut too far and will impact upon both public and firefighter safety. We await with interest the decision of the Merseyside Labour councillors on this matter.

Yours in unity

L Skarratts  
Brigade Secretary

# Liverpool VOICE

Local Community News And Action - Delivered Free At No Expense To The Taxpayer



Page 3: More Post Offices face the Axe



Page 4: Liverpool's year in the spotlight

## Warning from firefighters after latest Government Cuts

# "Lives At Risk"

## Lib Dems lead fight to protect Services



Local Firefighters have warned that lives will be put at risk after more Government cuts to our Fire Service.

Merseyside fire service are facing £2.5 million of Labour Government cuts this year, after already suffering £5 million cuts last year and £12.5 million in previous years.

### 188 Job Losses

Forced to make deep cuts in services, Merseyside Fire Service face sacking up to 130 (out of 1,100) firemen & women.

Already unions warn that staff shortages mean that many local fire stations, including Toxteth and Old Swan, often only have one fire engine available.

Meanwhile the Government plan to move Liverpool's 999 control room to Warrington,

with unions warning this will slow response time and cost another 58 jobs.

### 96 Hour Shifts Plan

To save even more money, the fire authority are now asking fire fighters to work 96 hour shifts, (12 hours on duty, followed by 12 hours resting, but on standby) away from their families for 4 days at a time.

Liberal Democrats have joined fire fighters in opposing these plans.

"All these Labour cuts will add vital minutes to the time it takes firefighters to get to a fire," says Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Spokesman *Colin Eltridge*.

"We all know that just a few seconds delay can mean the difference between life and death if our home catches fire. That's why Labour's cuts are so criminal."

**How Labour's cuts put us all at risk**

- X £20 Million of cuts from our fire service
- X 130 Firefighters to lose their jobs
- X 999 Control Centre moving to Warrington
- X Fire Stations left with just one fire engine
- X And now they want our firemen to work 96 hour shifts!!!

The Liberal Democrats have led the fight against these Labour Cuts

Save Our Fire Service Campaign - Sign The Petition On Page 4....