

AGENDA ITEM:

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>MERSEYSIDE FIRE &amp; RESCUE AUTHORITY MEETING</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2011</b>
<b>REPORT NO.</b>	<b>CFO/021/11</b>
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	<b>ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE &amp; TREASURER</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>DEB APPLETON, DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY AND MEMBER DEVELOPMENT, EXTN. 4402</b>
<b>OFFICERS CONSULTED:</b>	
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SUBSCRIPTION 2011/12</b>

**THERE ARE NO APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT**

**\*A Glossary of Terms has been listed at the end of this report for your reference**

Purpose of Report

1. To request that Members approve the recommendations of this report relating to the continued membership of the Local Government Association.

Recommendation

2. That Members consider if they wish to continue with the Authority's membership of the Local Government Association and to pay the annual subscription in full by 30<sup>th</sup> June to benefit from a 2.5% prompt payment discount.

Introduction & Background

3. Members will be aware that the Authority is a long standing member of the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Service has received notification of the fees required for 2011/12.

4. The LGA has carried out a review of its fee structure in response to the significant impact on its members of the Government's spending review and as a result the fees for MFRS have reduced from £38,574 in 2009/10 and £40,113.51 in 2010/11 **to £29,338 for 2011/12**. This includes a 2.5% prompt payment discount which applies to all Authorities that pay in full by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011.
5. It should be noted however that a meeting of Metropolitan Fire & Rescue Authorities in April discussed the way in which LGA fees are calculated and apparent disparities in fees between seemingly similar FRAs. A request has been sent to the LGA for more details of the funding formula and the prevailing opinion at the meeting was that Metropolitan FRAs should withhold payment until this matter is resolved.
6. The LGA is a voluntary membership body that has 422 member authorities in England and Wales. They include county councils, metropolitan district councils, English unitary authorities, London boroughs and shire district councils, as well as fire authorities, police authorities, national park authorities and passenger transport authorities.
7. The LGAs aim is to *"work closely with our member authorities to ensure that we target our efforts on the issues that matter most to them. We work with them to deliver our shared vision of an independent and confident local government sector where local priorities drive public service improvement in every city, town and village and every councillor acts as a champion for their ward and the people they represent."*
8. The LGA provides conferences, guidance, research and lobbying in relation to a wide variety of general local government issues and on matters affecting specific sectors. Over the years individual elected Members from MFRA have sat on LGA political groups and the Fire Services Management Committee enabling them to influence national LGA policy and direction and contribute in relation to specific FRS issues.

#### Equality & Diversity Implications

9. There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

#### Financial Implications & Value for Money

10. The cost of this subscription (£29,338) can be met from existing budgets and represents a reduction in cost on previous years' subscriptions.

#### Health & Safety and Environmental Implications

11. There are no Health and Safety or environmental implications arising from this report.

Contribution to Achieving Our Purpose:

“To Make Merseyside a Safer, Stronger, Healthier Community”

12. Membership of the LGA allows MFRA Members to contribute to and benefit from the work of the LGA in championing the local government sector.

**\*Glossary of Terms**

LGA – Local Government Association