

AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT TO:	MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY MEETING
DATE:	12TH MAY 2011
REPORT NO.	CFO/048/11
REPORTING OFFICER:	ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE & TREASURER
CONTACT OFFICER:	DEB APPLETON, DIRECTOR, OF STRATEGY & MEMBER DEVELOPMENT, EXT 4402
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	HELEN PEEK, MEMBER LIAISON & SUPPORT MANAGER, EXT 4112
SUBJECT:	AUDIT COMMISSION LETTER - ANNUAL FEE 2011/12

**APPENDIX A TITLE: AUDIT COMMISSION LETTER RE ANNUAL
FEE 2011/12**

ATTACHED –HARD COPY

Purpose of Report

1. To notify Members of the Audit Commission letter dated 8th April 2011, detailing the proposed programme of work and fee, to conduct the Annual Audit for 2011/12 of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (attached as Appendix A).

Recommendation

2. That Members:
 - (a) Note the content of the letter detailing the programme of work and reduced fee of £72,054 (excluding VAT) for the Annual Audit 2011/12; and
 - (b) approve the Annual Audit 2011/12 to be carried out for the fee of £72,054.

Introduction & Background

3. It is a legal requirement for the Authority to have an annual Audit of its accounts.

4. The Audit Commission set out a Code of Audit Practice which sets out a risk-based approach to audit planning. The attached letter and programme of work (appendix A), in adherence to the Code, sets out the plan of work in order for the Annual Audit 2011/12 of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority to be conducted.
5. With the Audit Commission setting a scale fee for each audited body for 2011/12, this reflects a proposed decrease in the total audit fee, taking account of the pressure on funding of Fire and Rescue Authorities (see appendix A for full details). This has meant that the Fee for the 2011/12 Annual Audit is at the reduced figure of £72,054 as apposed to the 2010/11 fee of £78,320.

Equality & Diversity Implications

6. None arising from this report.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

7. The cost for conducting the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority's Annual Audit for 2011/12 is approximately £72,054. This Audit is carried out by the Audit Commission and assesses the procedures and transactions of the Authority to ensure that demonstrates good practice, and achieves value for money.
8. Annual provision is set within existing budgets for this Audit to be carried out.

Health & Safety and Environmental Implications

9. None arising from this report.

Contribution to Achieving our Purpose

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

10. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority welcome the challenge of Audits as an opportunity to reassure the Community it serves, that public funding contributed via council tax payers, is utilised to its maximum potential thus providing an excellent service to make Merseyside a Safer, Stronger, Healthier Community.