

AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT TO:	MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY MEETING
DATE:	21ST JULY 2011
REPORT NO.	CFO/090/11
REPORTING OFFICER:	ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & TREASURER
CONTACT OFFICER:	DEB APPLETON, DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY & MEMBER DEVELOPMENT, EXTN. 4112
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	HELEN PEEK, MEMBER LIAISON & SUPPORT MANAGER
SUBJECT:	REVIEW OF AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER SPONSORS

**APPENDIX A TITLE: PROPOSED MEMBER SPONSORS FOR
2011/12**

APPENDIX B TITLE: SPONSOR ROLES 2010/11

ATTACHED – HARD COPIES

Purpose of Report

1. Following a review of the Member Sponsor Roles, by the Member Development Group, to propose the outcome of the review and propose the revised Sponsor Roles and nominated Members for consideration and approval by the Authority.

Recommendation

2. That Members:
 - (a) Approve the revised Sponsor Roles, including the introduction of a Youth Engagement Sponsor Role; and
 - (b) Approve the nominated Member Sponsors into the designated Sponsor Roles, as per the Member Development Groups recommendations, as attached at Appendix A.

Introduction & Background

3. At the Annual Meeting of the Authority, appointments of Members into Sponsor Roles were not considered.

4. It was requested by the Vice Chair of the Authority, and Chair of the Member Development Group, that a review of the Member Sponsor Roles be carried out by the Group, and their recommendations be put forward to the Authority for approval.
5. Due to the review of the Member Sponsor Roles, it was requested that additional responsibility allowance for these roles cease until such time that Members have been appointed to roles for the current municipal year.
6. At the Member Development Group meeting on 12th July 2011, Members considered the Member Sponsor Roles, which had been in place for the previous municipal year (Appendix B), if there was benefit to Members and the Authority for having such roles, and which Members they felt best suited to appoint to each role.
7. It was considered beneficial to continue with each of the Sponsor Roles previously in place and to introduce an additional role to appoint Members as Youth Engagement Sponsors. The addition of this role would be beneficial to the Authority as Youth Engagement is a prime area which the Members feel crucial to be able to communicate, educate, and create areas of inclusion for younger people, to make a real difference within and for the Community of Merseyside. Not only improving behaviour, and reducing deliberate fires within the community but by providing direction to help them develop, communicate and gain interests in healthier lifestyles.
8. The Member Development Group also felt it appropriate to twin newer Members with Members who have had more experience on the Fire Authority, to allow them opportunity to develop and gain experience within their designated Sponsor areas, whilst having the support of their colleague to work with them and provide guidance (see Appendix A).

Equality & Diversity Implications

9. Appointment of Member Sponsors are to assist the Authority in ensuring there is equality throughout the Service. It is recommended that the Authority appoints two Members as Sponsors in relation to Equality and Diversity.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

10. The Members Allowance Scheme provides additional responsibility allowance of £2,018 per Annum for Members appointed to Sponsor roles, however Members are only entitled to one Sponsor allowance payment which is only payable to Members who are not already in receipt of additional responsibility allowance for the appointment of Chair, Vice Chair, Opposition Spokesperson, Deputy Opposition Spokesperson or a Committee Chair. Therefore any additional costs can be met within existing Budgets.

Health & Safety and Environmental Implications

11. The appointment of a Health & Safety and Environmental Member Sponsor, provides close scrutiny across this area. Member Sponsors in general are all contributing to provide a safer, healthier environment.

Contribution to Achieving Our Purpose:

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

12. The Appointment of Member Sponsors provides additional concentration within key areas which the Authority feel appropriate to achieve our purpose. The addition of a Youth Engagement Member Sponsor will particularly have a positive focus on engaging with people in the community, to make Merseyside a safer stronger healthier community in which to live.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

CFO/129/10 – Member Sponsors Report – Executive Leadership Board