

AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT TO:	MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY MEETING
DATE:	27TH MAY 2010
REPORT NO.	CFO/097/10
REPORTING OFFICER:	CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY
CONTACT OFFICER:	JANET HENSHAW, CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY, EXTN. 4301
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	HELEN PEEK, MEMBER SUPPORT AND LIAISON MANAGER, EXTN. 4112
SUBJECT:	CHAIRING SKILLS FOR MEMBERS 15TH JUNE 2010

THERE ARE NO APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT

Purpose of Report

1. To request that Members consider and support the recommendations of this report with regard to providing training and development on chairing meetings for Members who are appointed as Chairs, Vice Chairs and Alternate Members to Chairs of Committees for the 2010/11 Municipal Year.

Recommendation

2. That the Authority:
 - (a) agree the importance of having confident Chairs of its meetings and the contribution of this to effective decision making that leads to positive outcomes for our communities; and
 - (b) confirm that all Members appointed as a Chair, Vice Chair or Alternate Member to a Chair, to be determined by the Authority at its Annual Meeting on 9th June 2010 for the Municipal year 2010/11, will be required to attend the Charing Skills Event on 15th June 2010.

Introduction & Background

3. Each year Elected Members are appointed by their District Council to form Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority, regardless of whether there are any Local Elections. Last year only saw one Member of the Authority change, as there was no Local Election. Therefore the experience of Chairs within the Authority remained consistent, as the new Member was not appointed as a Chair of a committee.

4. As there has been a Local Election this year it is likely that there maybe a significant change in the Membership of the Authority.
5. As an Authority which is committed to quality and values learning and development, MFRA provides regular training and development for all of its Members. New Members to the Authority receive induction training covering a wide range of topics which are vital to their role as Fire Authority Members. Induction training is open for all Members of the Authority, as it is appreciated that it is as important to refresh information to enable Members to make the important decisions required for Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service and the Communities it serves.
6. It can be quite daunting for any Member, regardless of their length of service and extent of experience, to be a Chair of any meeting. Therefore, to enable all Members to feel confident, when placed in such a role, it is proposed that all Members who are appointed as a Chair, Vice Chair or an alternate to a Chair, attend a seminar on 15th June 2010, at 10am. This event will be held at Headquarters and will be jointly presented by North West Employers, and the Authority's own Monitoring Officer, to ensure it is best tailored for Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority Members' benefit.
7. All Members are invited to attend this event. Not all members will be appointed to a position of Chair on this Authority, however it maybe still be beneficial for Members' own development, particularly so for those who maybe appointed as a Chair within a different role as a Councillor or outside organisation.
8. The outcome will see a structured continuity in the style of all meetings held within MF&RA and empower all Members who find themselves in a position of Chair, to carry out that role in confidence.

Equality & Diversity Implications

9. All Members of the Authority, who are appointed as a Chair, Vice Chair or Alternate Chair, will be trained to the same standard, to enable them to carry out that role, regardless of their length of service and experience as a Councillor or Member of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

10. The event will cost £600 excluding VAT and refreshments. This will be met within existing budgets.

Health & Safety and Environmental Implications

11. There are no Health and Safety implications arising form this report.

Contribution to Achieving the Vision:

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

12. Members will be fully trained as Chairs of meetings, which will assist in a structured and consistent approach to making important decisions for Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service and the Community it serves.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NONE