

AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT TO:	MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY ANNUAL MEETING
DATE:	9TH JUNE 2010
REPORT NO.	CFO/107/10
REPORTING OFFICER:	CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY
CONTACT OFFICER:	HELEN PEEK, MEMBER LIAISON AND SUPPORT MANAGER, EXTN 4112
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	
SUBJECT:	APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

THERE ARE NO APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Authority of the outside organisations to which it is currently affiliated and to request, where appropriate confirmation of continuing affiliation for 2010/11 and the appointment of representatives to those organisations.

Recommendation

2. That the Authority considers whether it wishes to confirm continuing affiliation with the organisations specified in this report, and to consider confirming the existing appointments or making replacement or alternative nominations for representation on outside organisations, as appropriate.

Introduction & Background

Information

3. (A) Local Government Association

At the 2009 Annual Meeting Councillors Newman and Mahon were appointed as the representatives on the Fire Service Forum while Councillor Grannell was the appointed representative on the Urban Commission. Councillor Clein was nominated as an alternate Member for the Liberal Democrat Group on the Fire Service Forum. The Authority has agreed to meet any costs associated with attendance at such meetings. Confirmation of continuing membership of the Association and nominations for these positions are now requested. The cost of affiliation to the LGA during 2009/10 was £44,360 however, the LGA has recently confirmed a 10% reduction this year. The cost will therefore be £40,113.51 (including VAT).

(B) North Western Employers' Organisation

The Authority is a Member of the North Western Local Authorities Employers Organisation and Councillor Ted Grannell was appointed representative for 2009/10. Confirmation of continuing membership and nomination for this position is now requested. The cost of affiliation is presently £3,147 per annum.

(C) National Joint Council

Currently Councillor Tony Newman is the appointed Spokesperson on the Employers side of the National Joint Council for Local Authorities Fire Brigades.

(D) Merseyside Brussels Office

In 2009 the Authority confirmed affiliation to the Merseyside Brussels Office, appointing Councillor Barber as representative. Members are asked to confirm if they wish to continue in Membership of this organisation which represents the interests of the local authorities in Merseyside and other public sector and voluntary organisations within the European Community offices in Brussels and if so, to appoint a Member as the representative. The present cost of affiliation is £6,100 per annum.

(E) Local Authorities Confronting Disasters and Emergencies - L.A.C.D.E.

In 2009 the Authority confirmed its affiliation to the L.A.C.D.E. and appointed Councillor Ted Grannell as representative. Members are asked to confirm whether or not the Authority wishes to continue the affiliation and to confirm an appointee as representative. The cost of affiliation is approximately 500 dollars and the affiliation period is January – December.

(F) North West Fire and Rescue Management Board

The Authority is represented by four Members on the North West Fire and Rescue Management Board. At present such Members are the Chairman, Councillor Newman, Vice Chairman Councillor Mahon as well as the Opposition Spokespersons Councillors Clein and Roughley (who lost his seat at the Local Election in May 2010). The Authority is requested to nominate four elected representatives to membership of the Board and also consider arrangements for the nomination of alternate Members who are eligible to attend meetings in the absence of any of the appointed representatives. Members appointed to the North West Board receive Special Responsibility Allowances for the performance of these duties, and an additional special responsibility allowance is payable where a Member of the Authority is also appointed as Vice Chair of the North West Board.

(G) Fire Support Network

The Chair of the Authority for the time being is appointed as a Trustee and Member of the Fire Support Network.

(H) Appointment of 2 Directors to the Proposed Regional Fire Control Company

The Authority has agreed to appoint Councillor Newman and Councillor Clein as Directors of North West Fire Control Limited.

The Authority has also agreed to approve the Chair of the Authority to attend meetings of Members of the proposed Company on behalf of the Authority.

Equality & Diversity Implications

4. Appointments and participation in the above organisations will assist the Authority in developing diversity further.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

5. The costs of membership of the above organisations can be met from existing budgets. Travelling and Subsistence Allowances are payable to Members who perform their responsibilities in respect of the above appointments. Such costs can be met from existing budget provision.

Summary of Estimated Costs of Subscriptions

	£'000
LGA	40.1
NW Employers	3
Merseyside Brussels Office	6
LACDE	<u>1</u>
	<u>50.1</u>

Health & Safety and Environmental Implications

6. Members of the Fire Authority are appointed to outside organisations to communicate, learn and develop with these organisations to make a healthier and safer environment, in as environmentally friendly a manner as possible for the communities each organisation serves.

Contribution to Achieving the Vision:

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

7. Appointments of Authority Members to outside organisations assists in exchanging knowledge and diversity to ensure the Fire Service continually learns and plays active key roles in the development of the community.