

AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT TO:	MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY MEETING
DATE:	16TH DECEMBER 2010
REPORT NO.	CFO/190/10
REPORTING OFFICER:	CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY & MONITORING OFFICER
CONTACT OFFICER:	JANET HENSHAW, CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY EXT. 4301
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	HELEN PEEK, MEMBER LIAISON & SUPPORT MANAGER
SUBJECT:	QUORUM AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONSULTATION AND NEGOTIATION COMMITTEE

THERE ARE NO APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT

Purpose of Report

1. To ask Members to consider a change to the membership of the Consultation and Negotiation Committee.

Recommendation

2. That Members:
 - (a) Approve an increase of one additional Member to sit upon the Consultation and Negotiation Committee in order to ensure that future meetings are quorate; and
 - (b) Nominate and elect a further Member if such an increase is agreed.

Introduction & Background

3. The Consultation and Negotiation panel has been set up under the Authority's structure for some time, which met on an ad-hoc basis.
4. New terms of reference were approved by the Authority on 30th September 2010 for a new Consultation and Negotiation Committee, which was established in order to meet regularly and to ensure that Members remained central to the process of Consultation and Negotiation with the trade unions.

5. The Committee comprises three Members, one from each of the political parties and is attended by all the recognised trade unions.
6. Unfortunately although the quorum for this Committee is only two Members, a meeting on 13th October 2010 was inquorate and could not therefore go ahead.
7. The Chair of the Authority is concerned to ensure that industrial relations is given due regard by the Authority and therefore wishes to increase the membership of the Committee to four Members, hopefully better enabling the meetings to be quorate in future.
8. Members are therefore asked to approve an increase in the membership of the Consultation and Negotiation Committee to four Members and to elect a further Member if this is approved.

Equality & Diversity Implications

9. None relevant to this report.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

10. None relevant to this report.

Health & Safety and Environmental Implications

11. None relevant to this report.

Contribution to Achieving Our Purpose:

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

12. Good Industrial Relations practices are essential in ensuring that the Authority continues to meet its purpose.