

AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT TO:	MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY MEETING
DATE:	16TH DECEMBER, 2010
REPORT NO.	CFO/211/10
REPORTING OFFICER:	ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE & TREASURER
CONTACT OFFICER:	ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE & TREASURER EXTN 4108
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	
SUBJECT:	UPDATE ON RECENT CONFERENCES ATTENDED

THERE ARE NO APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Authority on the outcomes from recent conferences attended by Members.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that the report is noted.

Introduction & Background

3. The Authority aims to share learning from Members attending conferences.
4. Three recent conferences have been attended.

CONFERENCE	COUNCILLOR ATTENDEES	OFFICER ATTENDEES
Diversity Action Group-Single Equality Act Conference	Cllr Ayres	Ustar Miah
Fire Improvement Group	Cllrs Newman, Hanratty, Mahon, Ellis & Niblock	Kieran Timmins

Diversity Action Group – Single Equality Act Conference

5. The Diversity Action Group Single Equality Act Conference was held in Liverpool on 14th October. The new Equality Act became “live” from 1st October and so the conference was timely with a well regarded line up of speakers.

6. The conference provided an overview of the Equality Act including explanations of the implications of the Act to employers
7. There was value in confirming that the Authority's current arrangements, underpinned by its single equality scheme, appear fit for purpose and the recent Peer Assessment against the FRS Equality framework should provide evidence to confirm that view.

Fire Improvement Group

8. The Fire Improvement Group is a self improvement group founded by those fire authorities at the forefront of modernisation and excellent performance. It meets three times a year to share best practice between Members.
9. The Authorities involved are:-
 - (a) Cleveland
 - (b) West Yorkshire
 - (c) Kent
 - (d) Merseyside
 - (e) Staffordshire
10. The most recent meeting focused on how authorities are planning for budget pressures. Issues being considered include:-
 - It is clear that the impact of financial pressures are more likely to fall heavily on grant dependant authorities.
 - Most authorities are planning for a very large financial challenge.
 - Most authorities are reviewing their attendance at Automatic False Alarms with a view to perhaps not responding at all.
 - Most authorities are examining raised crewing arrangements.

Equality & Diversity Implications

11. None arising out of this report.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

12. None arising out of this report.

Health & Safety and Environmental Implications

13. None arising out of this report.

Contribution to Achieving Our Purpose:

"To Make Merseyside a Safer, Stronger, Healthier Community"

14. None arising out of this report.