

AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT TO:	MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY
DATE:	THURSDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2010
REPORT NO.	CFO/216/10
REPORTING OFFICER:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE & CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
CONTACT OFFICER:	DEB APPLETON, DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY AND MEMBER DEVELOPMENT, EXTN. 4402
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	HELEN PEEK, MEMBER LIAISON AND SUPPORT MANAGER, EXTN. 4112
SUBJECT:	NW EMPLOYERS ELECTED MEMBER DEVELOPMENT CHARTER AWARD

**APPENDIX A TITLE COPY OF CERTIFICATE RECEIVED
NOVEMBER 2010**

ATTACHED - HARD COPY

Purpose of Report

1. To advise Members of their success following their application under Level 1 review of the North West Employers 'Elected Member Development Charter Award', and to request that Members consider applying under Level 2 of the Charter to achieve 'Exemplar Status' before the close of the municipal year.

Recommendation

2. That Members:
 - (a) Note the Authority's success in achieving Level 1 Review of the North West Employers Elected Member Development Charter Award; and
 - (b) Approve the Member Development Group's proposal to apply under Level 2 of the North West Employers Elected Member Development Charter Award, in relation to youth engagement and antisocial behaviour, to be produced and submitted on behalf of the Authority, to ensure that the assessment is carried out before the end of the municipal year – to ensure that the contribution of all Members can be taken into account unaffected by any changes that could occur following elections,

Introduction & Background

3. Members will recall that the Authority submitted their application under the North West Employers Elected Member Development Charter Award, earlier

this year. Following submission of the application an assessment was carried out on 8th September 2010 at Headquarters, by Councillors Mike Wharton and Don Lawrenson of the Assessment Board. During the assessment eight Elected Members, one Independent Member and three Officers were interviewed.

4. Initial feedback on the day was that Members receive a good level of development; the assessors commented that they would like to be a part of the Authority and they were impressed with the range of involvement and engagement the Service has within the community.
5. Formal notification was received mid October, to confirm that Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority had been successful in demonstrating their continued commitment to Member Development and Members of the Member Development Group were invited to attend the celebration event on Friday 26th November 2010, to receive the certification of award.
6. Each Authority that has been successful in receiving an award, perform a presentation at the event, as a way of sharing best practice. It is an insight into each authority and shares what they have achieved through Member Development. Councillors Mahon and Ellis attended the event and performed a sketch that demonstrated that development comes in many forms including attendance at events and exercises such as 'Exercise Orion', mud rescue demonstrations and ship fire training for operational staff as much as statutory and more traditional training, as this enables Members to make informed decisions regarding resources required to perform at professional, high standards balanced against a cost effective service.
7. Level 2 of the Charter is to reach Exemplar Status. Members are requested to consider if the Authority wishes to proceed to the next level or not. If Members do wish to proceed onto the next level a decision is requested as to whether they wish to submit an application within the current municipal year with assessment conducted prior to the Local Elections; or if they wish to submit an application within the 2011/12 municipal year.
8. If Members do decide to work towards Level 2 of the Charter, it is suggested by the Member Development Group that the topic should be in relation to youth engagement and antisocial behaviour, and how the training and development received by Members helps to reduce anti-social behaviour and improve youth engagement throughout Merseyside.

Equality & Diversity Implications

9. Continual Member Development is important to Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority, and equality and diversity issues are a key part of their strategy and development programme.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

10. There are no additional financial implications contained within this report.

Health and Safety and Environmental Issues

8 There are no health and safety issues arising as a result of this report.

Contribution to Achieving the Purpose:

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

11. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority Members have demonstrated their commitment to their development to ensure that they are aware and equipped to make strategic decisions within their financial restraints.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None