

AGENDA ITEM:

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| REPORT TO: | MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY |
| DATE: | THURSDAY 17TH MAY 2012 |
| REPORT NO. | CFO/057/12 |
| REPORTING OFFICER: | DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE, KIERAN TIMMINS |
| CONTACT OFFICER: | JANET HENSHAW, DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, PROCUREMENT AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES, EXT 4301 |
| OFFICERS CONSULTED: | HELEN PEEK DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER, KELLY JOHNSON, ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER, ENID CHARLTON, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT OFFICERS |
| SUBJECT: | NW EMPLOYERS ELECTED MEMBERS DEVELOPMENT CHARTER AWARD LEVEL 2 - APPLICATION |

**APPENDIX A TITLE MF&RA ELECTED MEMBER
DEVELOPMENT CHARTER DRAFT
APPLICATION**

APPENDIX B TITLE EVIDENCE INDEX

ATTACHED – HARD COPY

Purpose of Report

1. To request that Members consider the Application form attached at Appendix A and the recommendations of Member Development Group contained within this report with regard to the submission of the application on behalf of the Authority, for the North West Employers Elected Members Development Charter Award, under level II – to achieve Exemplar Status.

Recommendation

2. That Members;
 - a) Note the recommendations of the Member Development Group contained within this report;

- b) Provide any feedback to the Democratic Services Manager for inclusion in the application, prior to submission.
- c) Approve for the application to be submitted to North West Employers on behalf of the Authority, before the end of July.
- d) Note that Members will need to be available to meet with Assessors to discuss their development in support of their application, deadline for completion of the assessment being end of August / first week of September,
- e) Note that the annual celebration event for successful applicants will be held on 26th October 2012
- f) Approve that a copy of the final application doc be provided to Members including any New Members who join the Authority at the Annual Meeting, as part of their induction.

Executive Summary

Executive Leadership Board approved on 25th August 2011 for the Member Development Group to work towards a programme to submit an application under Level 2 of the North West Employers Elected Member Development Charter Award, and to feed back to the Authority. The Member Development Group have now completed a Draft Application on behalf of the Authority, in relation to all the work which the Authority have channelled into Youth Engagement and the positive effect that has had on antisocial behaviour in the communities it serves, and requested that the Draft application be submitted to the Full Authority on 17th May for Members consideration and approval for submission to North West Employers.

Introduction & Background

- 3. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority initially achieved the North West Employers Elected Member Development Level 1 Award in 2006, and demonstrated their continued commitment to Member Development by achieving the 'Maintaining Level 1 status' in 2010.
- 4. In 2009, the Authority had decided to submit an application for Exemplar Level 2. The application was submitted and an initial assessment was scheduled for September 2009, but unfortunately this had to be cancelled the day before due to there not being enough Members available to attend the visit the following day. This then meant that our application was to be put back a year.
- 5. In May 2010 following the Local Elections, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority were appointed five new Members. The Member Development Group met to discuss how it wished to progress with its application, following the first full Authority meeting.

6. Following consideration it was the recommendation of the Member Development Group to allow new Members the opportunity to gain experience on the Authority this year, and to look at forward planning to apply for the exemplar level of the North West Employers Elected Member Development Award next year (2011/12).
7. A Briefing Note was submitted to the Executive leadership board on 25th August 2011, and the Board agreed that the Member Development Group should continue to work towards preparation for the application and report back to the Authority.
8. The Members and Officers of the Member Development Group decided that it felt the best topic for the application would be in relation to all the work which the Authority have put into Youth Engagement and the positive effect that has had on antisocial behaviour in the communities it serves. The Group have now drafted an application on behalf of the Authority and at their meeting on 1st March 2012, stated that they wish to submit the application to the Executive Leadership Board and Full Authority for Members consideration and approval to submit to North West Employers.
9. The Executive Leadership Board, on 3rd April 2012 agreed for a report and the application to be submitted to the full Authority meeting on 17th May for consideration and ratification to submit to North West Employers.
10. The application is split into four questions:
 1. The issues faced by the Authority and the community in the beginning,
 2. Members Learning and Development in relation to the issues,
 3. The overall impact on the community, Members and the Authority, and
 4. Continuous improvement.

and has been written to tell a story of how the Authority has taken positive steps to engage with young people through its many initiatives over the years, and how that has impacted upon the community.

11. The Member Development Group felt that the application would also make a good development tool for New Members joining the Authority, to gain an insight into to the work the Fire Authority conduct outside of dealing with fire.
12. If successful in applying for the Level 2 of the North West Employers Member Development Charter Award, the Authority would be awarded Exemplar status, and ability to receive recognition for the work undertake over the years.
13. Members would need to make themselves available to attend the assessment process which is to be completed by the first week in September.
14. The Celebration event for Authorities who have been successful in their applications is scheduled to be held on 26th October 2012. This is an interesting event and good opportunity to learn and share experiences and ideas between other Local Authorities.

Equality & Diversity Implications

15. There are no equality and diversity implications directly associated with this report. The report relates to the engagement with young people across Merseyside, which has had a positive effect the community as a whole.

Staff Implications

16. There are no direct staff implications as a result of this report. The Application is as a result of Staff and Members working together.

Legal Implications

17. There are no Legal implications in relation to this report.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

18. Any training and development has been met through existing budgets.
19. There are no financial implications in relation to submitting the application, however there may be a small cost should Members wish to attend the North West Employers annual celebration event on 26th October, when awards are issued to successful Authorities, which can be met from existing budget lines.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

20. Member's development is provided to enable Members to make the decisions and implement strategies and initiatives to create a better environment for the Community.

Contribution to Our Mission – To Achieve: Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters”

21. Members Development is key to aiding the Authority to make challenging decisions, engage with the community and relevant partners to help protect, support and improve the Communities for all.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Executive Leadership Board Briefing Note CFO/096/11