

AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT TO:	MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY ANNUAL MEETING
DATE:	12TH JUNE 2013
REPORT NO.	CFO/072/12
REPORTING OFFICER:	JANET HENSHAW – DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, PROCUREMENT & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
CONTACT OFFICER:	HELEN PEEK – DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER, EXT- 4112
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	
SUBJECT:	QUESTIONS ON THE DISCHARGE OF FUNCTIONS

THERE ARE NO APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT

Purpose of Report

1. To request the Authority to nominate Members of the Authority from each of the five constituent District Councils as the Member responsible for answering questions in their Council on the discharge of the functions of the Fire & Rescue Authority.

Recommendation

2. That the Authority:
 - a. Approve one Member from each district be appointed to answer questions on the discharge of functions to ensure accurate and consistent information is passed on; and
 - b. Nominates five Members of the Authority (one from each constituent Council) as the Member responsible for answering questions in their Council on the discharge of the functions of the Fire & Rescue Authority.

Introduction & Background

3. There is a requirement under Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1985 for the Authority to nominate Members of the Authority from each constituent Council to answer questions in their Council on the discharge of the functions of the Fire & Rescue Authority.
4. It is a matter for the discretion of the Authority who it appoints in each case for this purpose and there is no requirement that the nominee should be from the main political group either on the Authority or within the constituent Council.
5. The Members nominated in 2011/2012 under Section 41 were:-

Knowsley	-	Councillor Tony Newman
Liverpool	-	Councillor Dave Hanratty
Sefton	-	Councillor Jimmy Mahon
St. Helens	-	Councillor Linda Maloney
Wirral	-	Councillor Denise Roberts

Equality & Diversity Implications

6. There are no direct equality and diversity implications from this report, however it is considered that having one Member from each district council appointed to answer questions on the discharge of functions, this ensures accurate and consistent information is passed on to each district across Merseyside.

Staff Implications

7. There are no staff implications in relation to this report, as this report relates to Members of the Authority.

Legal Implications

8. By appointing Authority Members from each district council to answer questions on the discharge of functions, the Authority will be meeting the requirement under Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1985 for the Authority to nominate Members of the Authority from each constituent Council to answer questions in their Council on the discharge of the functions of the Fire & Rescue Authority.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

9. None arising from this report.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

10. None arising from this report.

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

11. Authority Members appointed to answer questions in their council ensures that accurate relevant information is fed back to the community to confirm what the Authority does in support of achieving our mission.