

AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT TO: Meeting of the	MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY ANNUAL MEETING
DATE:	12TH JUNE 2012
REPORT NO.	CFO/073/12
REPORTING OFFICER:	JANET HENSHAW – CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY
CONTACT OFFICER:	HELEN PEEK – DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER, EXT- 4112
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	
SUBJECT:	APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

THERE ARE NO APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Authority of the outside organisations to which it is currently affiliated and to request, where appropriate, confirmation of continuing affiliation for 2012/13 and the appointment of representatives to those organisations.

Recommendation

2. That the Authority considers whether it wishes to confirm continuing affiliation with each of the organisations specified in this report, and as appropriate appoints Members to provide Authority representation on each of the outside organisations, as listed below:

Introduction & Background

3. (A) Local Government Association

At the 2011 Annual Meeting Councillors Newman and Mahon were appointed as the representatives on the Fire Services Commission (which replaced the Fire Forum) while Councillor Grannell was the appointed representative on the Urban Commission.

Councillor Clein was nominated as an additional Member for the Liberal Democrat Group, and Councillors Dave Hanratty and Les Byrom were nominated additional Members for the labour Group, on the Fire Services Commission.

The Authority has agreed to meet any costs associated with attendance at such meetings. Confirmation of continuing membership of the Association and nominations for these positions are now requested.

The cost of affiliation to the LGA was approved by the Authority at its meeting on 16th February 2012 and a payment of £10,735 was made as requested.

All Fire Authorities in full or corporate membership of the Association have the right to representation and voting on this Commission in accordance with Article 10 (and Schedule 1) of the LG Group Constitution, Standing Orders and Political Conventions. Additional members from fire authorities appointed as necessary by the political groups to ensure political balance as provided by Article 9.3.

(B) North Western Employers' Organisation

The Authority is a Member of the North West Local Authorities Employers Organisation and Councillor Robbie Ayres was appointed representative for 2011/12. Confirmation of continuing membership and nomination for this position is now requested. The cost of affiliation is presently £2,736.78 per annum.

(C) National Joint Council

Currently Councillor Tony Newman is the appointed Spokesperson on the Employers side of the National Joint Council for Local Authorities Fire Brigades.

(D) North West Partnership Board

The North West Partnership Board, was established following the end of North West Fire and Rescue Management Board which disbanded in 2010/11.

The Authority is represented by three Members on the North West Partnership Board. The Members representing the Authority are the Chair, one Vice Chair and the main Opposition Party Spokesperson.

The Authority is requested to nominate three elected representatives to membership of the Board as required by the Membership Structure above and also consider arrangements for the nomination of alternate Members who are eligible to attend meetings in the absence of any of the appointed representatives.

Members appointed to the North West Partnership Board receive Special Responsibility Allowances for the performance of these duties, and an additional special responsibility allowance is payable where a Member of the Authority is also appointed as a Vice Chair of the North West Partnership Board.

(E) Fire Support Network

The Chair of the Authority for the time being is appointed as a Trustee and Member of the Fire Support Network.

(F) Association of Metropolitan Fire & Rescue Authorities

The Authority appointed Councillors Newman and Mahon to the Association of Metropolitan Fire & Rescue Authorities in 2011/12. Members are requested to confirm appointment to this Association for 2012/13.

(G) At the Annual Meeting 2011 the Authority requested that further information be sought regarding the value of the Authority's affiliation with the Brussels Office and LACDE and a Report be brought back to Members prior to any decision being made regarding continued affiliation.

The findings were reported back and considered by the Community Protection Committee on 12th July 2011, where Members agreed for the Authority to continue affiliation with both LACDE and the Merseyside Brussels Office.

Local Authorities Confronting Disasters and Emergencies - L.A.C.D.E.

At the Community Protection Committee on 12th July 2011 the Authority confirmed its affiliation to the L.A.C.D.E. and appointed Councillor Ted Grannell as representative. The cost of affiliation is approximately 500 dollars and the affiliation period is January – December.

(H) Merseyside Brussels Office

At the Community Protection Committee on 12th July 2011 the Authority appointed Councillor Steve Niblock as representative. Members are asked to confirm if they wish to continue in Membership of this organisation which represents the interests of the local authorities in Merseyside and other public sector and voluntary organisations within the European Community offices in Brussels and if so, to appoint a Member as the representative. The present cost of affiliation is £6,000 per annum.

Equality & Diversity Implications

4. Appointments and participation in the above organisations will assist the Authority in developing diversity further.

Staff Implications

5. There are no staff implications in relation to this report.

Legal Implications

6. At its AGM the Authority is required to appoint Members to any appropriate and approved outside bodies.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

7. The costs of membership of the above organisations can be met from existing budgets.

Summary of Estimated Costs of Subscriptions

	£'000
LGA	10.7
NW Employers	2.8
Merseyside Brussels Office	6
LACDE	<u>0.5</u>
	<u>20.0</u>

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

8. Members of the Fire Authority are appointed to outside organisations to communicate, learn and develop with these organisations to make a healthier and safer environment, in as environmentally friendly a manner as possible for the communities each organisation serves.

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

9. Appointments of Authority Members to outside organisations assists in exchanging knowledge and diversity to ensure the Fire Service continually learns and plays active key roles in the development of the community.