

AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT TO:	MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY ANNUAL MEETING
DATE:	12TH JUNE 2012
REPORT NO.	CFO/ 076/12
REPORTING OFFICER:	JANET HENSHAW – CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY
CONTACT OFFICER:	HELEN PEEK – DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER – EXT-4112
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	
SUBJECT:	MEETINGS WITH NATIONAL POLITICIANS AT PARTY POLITICAL CONFERENCES

THERE ARE NO APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT

Purpose of Report

1. To consider a proposal in respect of possible attendance of Members at meetings at the location of party political conferences in order to make Authority related representations, in line with the Members Scheme of Allowances .

Recommendation

2. That:
 - (a) appropriate representatives of the political groups of the Authority be authorised to attend meetings with Ministers, Opposition Spokespersons and other relevant national politicians to be held at the location of their own party political conferences to discuss issues relating to the business of the Authority; and
 - (b) appropriate travel and subsistence expenses for such meetings be met but no payment of conference fees be made.
 - (c) Members are requested to report back to the Authority as to issues raised and responses and progress on information received.

Introduction & Background

3. The Authority has in previous years approved the attendance of representatives of its party political groups at meetings at the venue of their respective autumn party conferences. The purpose of such attendance has been to meet with national politicians etc whenever possible during conference week to both act as

advocates for the work of the Service and to discuss issues of importance to the Authority from a national perspective.

4. Members are requested to consider if they would wish to approve the recommendation in this report to enable the attendance of Authority Members at meetings to be convened at party conferences to make representations on behalf of the Authority at a significant political level.

Equality & Diversity Implications

5. None appertaining to this report.

Staff Implications

6. None in relation to this report. This report relates to Members of the Authority, not staff.

Legal Implications

7. It is important that the right representation is agreed by Members so that the relevant allowances can be paid pursuant to the Members Allowance Regulation 2003.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

8. There will be some costs in relation to Members attendance at events listed in Appendix A, which will depend on particular circumstances of attendance and regularity of such events, however these can be contained within the existing Democratic Representation budget.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

9. Members are to use the most efficient method of travel to such events.

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

10. Representation with National politicians at party political conferences is imperative to ensure the views of the Fire Authority, Service and Community are expressed and considered at key political level.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

CFO/075/12 Scheme of Members Allowances (on this agenda)