

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE		
DATE:	22ND MARCH 2018	REPORT NO:	CFO/020/18
PRESENTING OFFICER	MONITORING OFFICER		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	JANET HENSHAW	REPORT AUTHOR:	GEMMA SUNG
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT GROUP		
TITLE OF REPORT:	LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SUBSCRIPTION 2018/19		

APPENDICES:	APPENDIX A: LGA LETTER FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE RE: LGA MEMBERSHIP 2018/19
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Purpose of Report

1. To request that Members consider continuing Authority membership of the Local Government Association (LGA).

Recommendation

2. That Members;
 - a. Consider if the Authority wish to continue membership of the LGA;
 - b. Note the freeze of the LGA subscription fee for a further year and the 2.5% loyalty discount to all Fire and Rescue Authorities not on notice, alongside the 2.5% prompt payment discount to Authorities who pay the annual subscription in full by 30th June 2018, and;
 - c. Consider if the Authority wish to take up the offer of the discounted subscription, for 2018/19, of £10,460 plus VAT, and instruct the Democratic Services Manager to raise purchase order and make subscription payment in full, before 30th June 2018.

Introduction and Background

3. Members will be aware that the Authority has been a long standing member of the LGA. The purpose of this report is to advise that notification of the fees for 2018/19 has been received, and seek approval for continued affiliation and payment.
4. The LGA have previously stated that they are committed to keeping the cost of membership as low as possible. The LGA Leadership Board agreed in November 2014 to freeze membership subscriptions, and this would now be

the 6th year, of again offering a 2.5% loyalty discount for Fire and Rescue Authorities who are not on notice. This is alongside an offer of 2.5% prompt payment to Authorities who pay the subscription fee in full, before 30th June 2018, and equates to the same fees paid for the last 5 years since 2013/14.

5. The Authority is asked to consider the value of being a member of the LGA and if it wishes to continue affiliation with the LGA for 2018/19, consider taking advantage of the discounted subscription for early payment.
6. A letter from Mark Lloyd, LGA Chief Executive is attached (Appendix A) detailing the wide range of issues which the LGA have worked with Fire and Rescue Authorities, to address.

Equality and Diversity Implications

7. Membership with the LGA is a network for sharing views and discussing issues amongst similar organisations, to assist in the influencing of national LGA policy.
8. A network of this type allows equality and diversity considerations to be taken into account before national policies are set.

Staff Implications

9. There are no direct staff implications relating to this report.

Legal Implications

10. The National Fire Lawyers Group, of which the Clerk is a member, receives regular updates from the LGA and therefore continued membership would assist this valuable service.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

11. If the Authority gives approval to take advantage of the discounted loyalty fee and prompt payment discount, the cost of this £10,460 subscription can be met from existing budgets.
12. This would see value for money with a freeze of subscription matching that of the last 5 years, compared to higher membership charges in previous years in excess of £10,735.
13. It is important to note that additional costs are likely to be incurred for travel and accommodation (if required) when attending LGA Conferences, however these costs are usually contained within existing budgets and are covered by the Members Allowance Scheme.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

14. There are no direct implications within this report relating to risk management, health and safety or the environment.

Contribution to Our Mission: *Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters*

15. Membership of the LGA allows the Authority to contribute to, and benefit from the work of the LGA in championing the local government sector.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

CFO/006/15

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

LGA Local Government Association