

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF THE: AUTHORITY (ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING)

DATE: 8 JUNE 2023 REPORT NO: CFO/025/23

PRESENTING OFFICER: RIA GROVES, MONITORING OFFICER

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: RIA GROVES REPORT AUTHOR: SHAUNA HEALEY

OFFICERS CONSULTED: STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM
CHAIR OF THE AUTHORITY

TITLE OF REPORT: APPOINTMENTS OF MEMBERSHIP TO OUTSIDE BODIES

APPENDICES: NONE

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 the affiliation for 2023/24 and the appointment of representatives to those organisations.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that Members;
 - a) note current affiliations to outside bodies;
 - b) approve the continued affiliation with each of the organisations specified in this report; and
 - c) approve as appropriate, appointments of Members to each of the outside organisations as the Authority's representatives.

Introduction and Background

3. (A) Local Government Association

At the 2022 Annual General Meeting, Councillors Byrom, Kenny and Roberts were appointed as the representatives on the Fire Services Commission.

All Fire and Rescue Authorities, in full or corporate membership of the Local Government Association, have the right to representation and voting on the Fire Services Commission in accordance with the LGA Governance Framework. Additional members from Fire and Rescue Authorities appointed as necessary by the political groups to ensure political balance on The Fire Services Commission.

Members agreed at the Authority meeting in May 2021 that Members' subscription and membership to the LGA will continue until Members determine otherwise. The current subscription cost for 2023/24 is £11684.18.

Members are asked to confirm who the representatives appointed to the Fire Services Commission for 2023/24 will be.

(B) North West Employers Organisation

The Authority is a member of the North West Local Authorities Employers Organisation. In 2022/23, a review was undertaken into the Authority's appointments to outside bodies, and as a result the process for appointing a Member and the level of involvement that Member would have has been reviewed. For 2022/23, the cost of this membership was £2,736.78 and Councillor James Roberts was appointed by the Authority to the North West Employers Organisation. If Members agree to the continued membership of the organisation the Director of People and Organisational Development will liaise with the appointed Member.

Members are asked to agree that Member's subscription and membership to the North-West Employers Organisation will continue until Members determine otherwise.

For 2023/24, the cost of affiliation remains at £2,736.78.

Nomination for the position of appointed representative for 2023/24 is now requested.

(C) North West Fire and Rescue Advisory Forum

The North West Fire and Rescue Advisory Forum was established in April 2014 following the disbanding of the North West Partnership Board. This Forum elected to have a Membership of Chairs, Vice-Chairs, Opposition Spokespersons and Chief Fire Officers.

Members are requested to confirm appointment to this Forum for 2023/24.

(D) Association of Metropolitan Fire & Rescue Authorities

The Authority appointed Councillor Byrom to the Association of Metropolitan Fire & Rescue Authorities in 2022/23.

Members are requested to confirm appointment to this Association for 2023/24.

(E) The Growth Platform

The Growth Platform has provided the following statement for Members attention in line with a request for further information on the opportunities the Growth Platform provide at the Scrutiny Committee on 25th April 2023:

“Liverpool City Region Growth Company (trading as Growth Platform) was established jointly by the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership and Combined Authority to help strengthen, simplify and coordinate the business landscape for the City Region – in short, we make it easier for businesses to start, grow and invest here.

Our mission is to deliver growth across the City Region and through partnership contributions we are able to put policy into action and deliver services through business support, attracting investment and developing talent - to make Liverpool City Region a fairer, greener and more inclusive economy for all who live and work here.

By joining as a partner, we can offer the following: -

- *Marketing and PR*
- *Business listing/link on the Growth Platform website*
- *Inclusion of appropriate MFRS news stories in the twice weekly Growth Platform newsletter (NB: specific messages to businesses can be tailored e.g., surveys/consultations).*
- *Social Media activity where appropriate (via Growth Platform Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram)*
- *Link to with MFRS’s marketing/social campaigns at appropriate times.*
- *Partner Case Study feature of MFRS and its USP (NB: previously done in Sept 2020, covid related video).*
- *Opportunities to be involved in specific Growth Platform campaigns across the year e.g., World Mental Health Day, International Women’s Day, diversity and equality campaigns.*

Events / Networking

- *Invites to quarterly Growth Platform partner meetings with the opportunity to speak at a future meeting and promote the MFRS’s work and role in the city region.*
- *Direct alerts to additional Growth Platform business focussed webinars/networking events, e.g., business support (Growth for Good and High Growth business events), investment and sector related events. (NB: options to get involved further by being on panels or key speakers)*
- *Opportunities to explore jointly branded networking events / webinars.*
- *Opportunity to host future meetings or networking events*

Strategic Priorities

- *Alignment with Growth Platform’s business support programme (training provisions, funding opportunities, high growth programme etc)*
- *Priority access to insights provided by Growth Platform’s Business Intelligence Unit who work with granular company data to build intelligence that will support business development, inform policy and decision-making and provide evidence for future interventions. This includes dashboards that provide intelligence on Priority Sectors, High Growth Businesses and Inward Investment Performance.*

- *Access to North West Research Service regarding tourism research initiatives/access to statistic packages etc.*

Introductions / Referrals

- *Meet with key Inward Investment team colleagues at Growth Platform to brief them on MFRS and understand their services so they can promote to potential inward investors.*
- *Meet with key Cluster Leads at Growth Platform including Advanced Manufacturing, Health & Life Science, Digital & Creative, with opportunities to link with them and their sector boards.*
- *Link to the Liverpool City Region Careers Hub team to explore opportunities to link into their work with 137 secondary schools across Liverpool City Region and also link to their relevant campaigns and initiatives such as Give an Hour and LCR Employers Network.*
- *Dedicated Relationship/Account Manager at Growth Platform to meet regularly with MFRS and ensure they maximise on the benefits above.”*

Appointment on behalf of the Authority for this membership is through a senior officer. If Members were to approve the continued membership to this organisation it is recommended that two senior officers be appointed as contacts for the Growth Platform; Area Manager for Prevention and Area Manager for Protection. Members will be provided quarterly updates on the Authority’s engagement with the group.

The cost of this membership for 2023/24 is £4,700.

Members are asked to confirm membership to this organisation for 2022/23.

- (F) Merseyside Community Safety Partnership / Safer Merseyside Partnership

The Merseyside Community Safety Partnership no longer exists in such a format and each Local Authority has its own Community Safety Partnership. As part of its statutory duties to collaborate with other public bodies to address serious violence within the community, officers are on each local authority community safety partnership within Merseyside and, as a result of a review of the appointments to outside bodies, it was made apparent that the Authority is no longer required to appoint a Member to participate in this Partnership or require approval to continue its membership of each community safety partnership across Merseyside.

Members are asked to note that the Safer Merseyside Partnership is now known as the Merseyside Strategic Policing and Partnership Board and is attended by the Chief Fire Officer, as the representative for MFRA, in respect of its duty in tackling and collaborating on preventing serious crime in the region.

Members are therefore asked to note an appointment is no longer required for this Partnership and requirement for the Service to remain an active

participant within each districts community safety partnerships to exercise its legal obligation within the serious violence duty.

Equality and Diversity Implications

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

Staff Implications

5. The proposal would include a senior officer attending the Growth Platform if approved.

Legal Implications

6. The Authority is required to appoint Members to any appropriate and approved outside organisations at its Annual General Meeting.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

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

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

8. Members of the Authority are appointed to outside organisations to learn from them, lend support to them, and encourage development for the Authority and the organisation to help create as safe an environment as possible.

Contribution to Our Vision: *To be the best Fire & Rescue Service in the UK.*

Our Purpose: *Here to serve, Here to protect, Here to keep you safe.*

9. The appointment of Members to outside organisations helps to develop the Authority's knowledge to ensure that they continually learn and develop and continue to play an active key role in the development and safety of the community it serves.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NONE

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

MFRA Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority

MFRS Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service