

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF THE:	AUTHORITY (ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING)		
DATE:	8 JUNE 2023	REPORT NO:	CFO/027/23
PRESENTING OFFICER	RIA GROVES, MONITORING OFFICER		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	RIA GROVES	REPORT AUTHOR:	SHAUNA HEALEY
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	STARTEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM		
TITLE OF REPORT:	MEETINGS WITH NATIONAL POLITICIANS AT PARTY CONFERENCE		

APPENDICES: NONE

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the attendance of Members at meetings held at the location of party political conferences, in order to make Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority related representations in line with the Members Scheme of Allowances.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that Members;
 - a) approve appropriate representatives of the political groups of the Authority 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;
 - b) approve appropriate travel and subsistence expenses for such meetings, but no payment of conference fees be made; and
 - c) report back to the Authority regarding issues raised and responses; and progress on information received.

Introduction and Background

3. The Authority has in previous years, approved the attendance of representatives of its party political groups at meetings held at the venue of their respective autumn party conference. The purpose of such attendance has been to meet with national politicians whenever possible during conference week, to 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 wish to approve the recommendations in this report, to enable the attendance of Authority Members at meetings convened at party conferences, to make representations on behalf of the Authority at a significant political level.

Equality and Diversity Implications

5. There are no equality and diversity implications contained within this report.

Staff Implications

6. There are no staff implications contained within this report.

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 Local Authorities (Members Allowances) England Regulations 2003.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

8. There will be some costs in relation to Members attendance at events, which will depend on particular circumstances of attendance and regularity of such events. However, these costs can be contained within the existing budget and the benefits of such representation can be significant.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

9. Members are required to use the most efficient method of travel to such events whilst being cognisant of the Authority's net zero ambitions.

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.*

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

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

NONE

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

MFRA Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority

MFRS Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

