

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	AUTHORITY		
DATE:	11 FEBRUARY 2014	REPORT NO:	CFO/013/14
PRESENTING OFFICER	KIERAN TIMMINS, DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	JANET HENSHAW	REPORT AUTHOR:	HELEN PEEK
OFFICERS CONSULTED:			
TITLE OF REPORT:	LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2014/15		
APPENDICES:	APPENDIX 1:	LGA Letter from Chief Executive re LGA Subscription 2014/15	

Purpose of Report

1. To request that Members approve the recommendations of this report relating to the continued membership of the Local Government Association.

Recommendation

2. That Members;
 - a) Consider whether they wish to continue with the Authority's membership of the Local Government Association;
 - b) Note that a 2.5% loyalty discount is being offered by the Local Government Association for Members who are not on notice, alongside the existing 2.5% prompt payment discount to Authorities who pay the annual subscription in full by 30th June 2014, and;
 - c) Consider if the Authority wish to take up the offer of the discounted subscription, for 2014/15, of £10,460 plus VAT, and instruct the Democratic Services Manager to raise purchase order and make subscription payment, before 30th June 2014

Introduction and Background

3. Members will be aware that the Authority has been a long standing member of the Local Government Association (LGA), and this report is to advise that notification of the fees required for 2014/15 has been received.
4. The LGA have previously stated that they are committed to keeping the cost of membership as low as possible, and are again offering a 2.5% loyalty discount for all members 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 2014, and equates to the same fee's paid for 2013/14.

5. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority are asked to consider the value of being a member of the LGA and if they wish to continue affiliation with the LGA for 2014/15, consider taking advantage of the discounted subscription for early payment.
6. A letter from Carolyn Downs, LGA Chief Executive is attached (Appendix 1) which details the wide range of issues 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 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, but 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.

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

LGA Local Government Association