

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	COMMUNITY SAFETY & PROTECTION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	27 MARCH 2014	REPORT NO:	CFO/022/14
PRESENTING OFFICER	DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	KIERAN TIMMINS	REPORT AUTHOR:	KIERAN TIMMINS
OFFICERS CONSULTED:			
TITLE OF REPORT:	RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP OF LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (FORMERLY THE MERSEY PARTNERSHIP)		

APPENDICES:	1	LIVERPOOL LEP LETTER 12.12.13
	2	LIVERPOOL LEP LEAFLET

Purpose of Report

1. To request that Members approve the proposal that the Authority continues its membership of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), (formerly The Mersey Partnership)

Recommendation

2. That Members approve the proposal that the Authority continues its membership of the LEP.

Introduction and Background

3. Members may recall approving membership of the LEP, formerly The Mersey Partnership (TMP) for 2013/14, following report CFO/36/13 to the full Authority.
4. In March 2012 TMP members voted unanimously for the former organisation to become the incorporated body of the new Liverpool City Region LEP. The organisation represents an important alliance between the public and private sectors, and is the Government's designated body responsible for driving sustainable economic growth across the region.
5. LEP took over the resources of the former TMP and their Mission for the Future, which is *"To build a dynamic partnership, campaigning for the Liverpool City Region as a great place to invest, live, work and visit – generating greater returns for all"*.

6. The 3 key areas that the organisation works in are :-
- Economic development
 - Bringing new business investment to the city region
 - Tourism
7. LEP's do not receive any direct funding from Central Government therefore the contributions received from Members represent an important source of income. This allows the LEP to develop economic development strategies based on agreed priorities and to facilitate their delivery with partners. This may include co-ordinating City Region bids for allocations from Government sources such as the Regional Growth Fund and Growing Places Fund.
8. It is considered that membership of LEP :-
- Helps the development of an economically stronger Merseyside. A more prosperous Merseyside will also be less at risk from fire and other emergencies.
 - Helps support Members making strategic decisions, especially regarding the budget.
 - Helps identify possible income generation opportunities and potential markets for the sale of services.
 - Identifies societal and economic changes across Merseyside that affect risk and thus assist in future planning.
 - Provides an opportunity to focus fire safety advice on tourist businesses in a targeted way.
 - Provides valuable networking opportunities with businesses and organisations across Merseyside.
9. It is considered that the benefits to the Authority of continuing their membership of LEP are considerable, and therefore it is proposed that the Authority continues its membership at a cost of £5,250 for 2014/15. This fee remains the same as for 2013/14.
10. The Letter and Brochure attached as appendices show LEP's achievements in 2013.

Equality and Diversity Implications

11. There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

Staff Implications

12. There are no staff implications arising from this report. Any staff who attend meetings of the LEP will be the same as those who attended the former TMP meetings.

Legal Implications

13. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

14. The cost of membership of the LEP remains the same for 2013/14 as the previous year at £5,250. Funding is available from existing budgets.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

15. There are no Risk Management, Health & Safety and Environmental Implications arising out of this report.

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

16. Membership of the LEP will continue to provide opportunities to contribute to and benefit from the work carried out to strengthen the economy of Merseyside in the longer term and locally benefits the Authority in the shorter term by providing information, support, advice and guidance in relation to planning and development of strategy.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NONE

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

TMP – The Mersey Partnership
LEP – Local Enterprise Partnership