

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	AUTHORITY (ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING)		
DATE:	11 JUNE 2026	REPORT NO:	MO/07/2627
PRESENTING OFFICER	MONITORING OFFICER, RIA GROVES		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	MONITORING OFFICER, RIA GROVES	REPORT AUTHOR:	MONITORING OFFICER, RIA GROVES, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER, MIA GRIFFITHS
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT)		
TITLE OF REPORT:	APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERSHIP TO OUTSIDE BODIES		
APPENDICES:	NONE		

Purpose of Report

1. To update Members on the outside bodies with which Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority ('the Authority') is currently affiliated, and to seek confirmation of continued membership of and affiliation with those organisations for 2026/27, together with approval of any required appointment of representatives.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that Members;
 - a) note the Authority's current affiliations with outside bodies Members are appointed to;
 - b) note the continued affiliation with the Local Government Association (LGA) and confirm who the representatives appointed to the Fire Services Commission for 2026/27 will be;
 - c) approve the continued affiliation with the North West Local Authorities Employers Organisation and confirm who the representatives appointed to the North West Local Authorities Employers Organisation will be for 2026/27;
 - d) approve the continued affiliation with the North West Fire and Rescue Advisory Forum and confirm the Authority's representatives to be appointed;
 - e) approve the continued affiliation with the Association of Metropolitan Fire & Rescue Authorities and confirm the Authority's representatives to be appointed; and

- f) delegate to the Chief Fire Officer to determine whether the continued affiliation with and membership of the Growth Platform should continue, and where continued membership is considered appropriate the Chief Fire Officer appoint an appropriate representative to act on behalf of the Authority.

Introduction and Background

3. Local Government Association

All Fire and Rescue Authorities, in full or corporate membership of the Local Government Association ('LGA'), 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 are 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 would continue until Members determine otherwise.

At the Annual General Meeting held on the 12th June 2025, the Chair and Vice Chars of the Authority were appointed as the representatives on the Local Government Association Fire Services Commission.

The current subscription cost for 2026/27 is £11,548.40 plus VAT which includes a loyalty discount and direct debit discount.

Members are asked to confirm who the representatives appointed to the Local Government Association Fire Services Commission for 2026/27 will be.

4. North West Local Authorities Employers Organisation

The Authority is a member of the North West Local Authorities Employers Organisation. For 2025/26, the cost of this membership was £4,225.66 with Councillor James Roberts appointed to represent the Authority.

For 2026/27, the cost of affiliation has risen to £5,705.33. plus VAT.

Members are asked to confirm who the representative appointed to the North West Local Authorities Employers Organisation for 2026/27 will be.

5. 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 asked to confirm appointment to this Forum for 2026/27.

6. Association of Metropolitan Fire & Rescue Authorities

The Authority appointed Councillors Byrom, Roberts and Grace to the Association of Metropolitan Fire & Rescue Authorities in 2025/26.

Members are asked to confirm membership to this organisation for 2026/27.

7. The Growth Platform

Members may recall that representation on the Growth Platform is no longer undertaken by Members, with the Authority currently represented by the Area Managers for Prevention and Protection Directorates. As no Members will be appointed to this outside body, it is therefore proposed authority be delegated to the Chief Fire Officer to review the Authority's continued membership and affiliation with the Growth Platform. If the Chief Fire Officer determines continued participation be considered appropriate, a suitable representative to act on behalf of the Authority should then also be appointed.

The cost of this membership for 2026/27 remains at £4,700 plus VAT.

Equality and Diversity Implications

8. Appointments and participation in these organisations support the Authority's ongoing work to strengthen diversity and inclusion across its governance and service delivery through shared learning, engagement and training.

Staff Implications

9. The proposal would include two senior officers attending the Growth Platform if approved.

Legal Implications

10. The Authority is required to appoint Members to any appropriate and approved outside organisations at its Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Financial Implications & Value for Money

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

Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

12. Members are appointed to outside organisations to support mutual learning, strengthen collaboration, and promote the development of both the Authority and its partners. This engagement helps to inform good practice and contributes to creating the safest possible working and community environment.

Environmental Implications

13. Members appointed to outside organisations gain insight, offer support and help strengthen those partnerships. Any learning from this engagement including environmental considerations can be brought back into the Authority to inform future practice and development.

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.*

14. The appointment of Members to outside organisations strengthens the Authority's collective knowledge, supporting continuous learning and development. This engagement helps Members play an active and informed role in shaping the Authority's work and contributing to the safety and wellbeing of the communities we serve.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NONE

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

LGA Local **G**overnment **A**ssociation