

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	AUTHORITY (ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING)		
DATE:	12 JUNE 2025	REPORT NO:	MO/05/2526
PRESENTING OFFICER	MONITORING OFFICER, RIA GROVES		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	MONITORING OFFICER, RIA GROVES	REPORT AUTHOR:	MONITORING OFFICER, RIA GROVES
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM		
TITLE OF REPORT:	APPOINTMENT 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 2024/25 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 the Local Government Association ; and who the representatives appointed to the Fire Services Commission for 2025/26 will be
 - c) approve the continued affiliation with the North West Employers Organisation and who the representatives appointed to the North West Local Authorities Employers Organisation for 2025/26 will be;
 - d) approve the continued affiliation with the North West Fire and Rescue Advisory Forum and confirm the membership to represent the Authority;
 - e) approve the continued affiliation with the Association of Metropolitan Fire & Rescue Authorities and confirm the membership to represent the Authority and;
 - f) approve the continued affiliation with the Growth Platform and confirm the representatives appointed on behalf of the Authority.

Introduction and Background

3. (A) Local Government Association

At the 2024 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 ('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 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 2025/26 has increased to £11,321.96 which includes a loyalty discount and direct debit discount. (£595.90).

Members are asked to confirm who the representatives appointed to the Fire Services Commission for 2025/26 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 2024/25, the cost of this membership was £2,736.78 and Councillor James Roberts was appointed by the Authority to the North West Employers Organisation.

Members agreed at the Authority meeting on 13th June 2024 that Members' subscription and membership to the North West Employers Organisation will continue until Members determine otherwise.

For 2025/26, the cost of affiliation has risen to £4,225.66 plus VAT.

Members are asked to confirm who the representatives appointed to the North West Local Authorities Employers Organisation for 2025/26 will be.

(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 2025/26.

(D) Association of Metropolitan Fire & Rescue Authorities

The Authority appointed Councillor Byrom to the Association of Metropolitan Fire & Rescue Authorities in 2024/25.

Members are asked to confirm membership to this organisation for 2025/26.

(E) The Growth Platform

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.

The cost of this membership for 2025/26 remains at £4700 plus VAT.

Members are asked to confirm membership to this organisation for 2025/26.

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 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.

Environmental Implications

9. Members of the Authority are appointed to outside organisations to learn from them, lend support to them, and encourage development for the Authority and

any such learning can be brought back within the organisation to consider which may include environmental learning.

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. 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