MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	**AUTHORITY**		
DATE:	**14 JUNE 2016**	**REPORT NO:**	**CFO/051/16**
PRESENTING OFFICER	**MONITORING OFFICER**		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**JANET HENSHAW**	**REPORT AUTHOR:**	**KELLY KELLAWAY – DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER, EXT 4113**
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	**STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT GROUP**		
TITLE OF REPORT:	**APPOINTMENT OF AUTHORITY MEMBERS TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**		

APPENDICES:	

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 affiliation for 2016/17 and the appointment of representatives to those organisations.

Recommendation

2. That the Authority considers whether it wishes to confirm continuing affiliation with each of the organisations specified in this report; and as appropriate, appoints Members to provide Authority representation on each of the outside organisations.

Introduction and Background

3. (A) Local Government Association

At the 2015 Annual General Meeting Councillors Hanratty and Byrom were appointed as the representatives on the Fire Services Commission.

All Fire Authorities in full or corporate membership of the Association have the right to representation and voting on this Commission in accordance with Article 10 (and Schedule 1) of the LG Group Constitution, Standing Orders and Political Conventions. Additional members from fire and rescue authorities appointed as necessary by the political groups to ensure political balance as provided by Article 9.3.

For 2015, the LGA again offered a 2.5% loyalty discount to all Authorities renewing their Membership and a further 2.5% prompt payment discount.

In order to take advantage of these discounts, a payment of £10,460 (including the 5% discount) has been made.

Members are asked to confirm who the representatives appointed to the Fire Services Commission for 2016/17 will be; and whether the Authority agrees to meet any costs related to Members attendance at associated meetings.

(B) North West Employers Organisation

The Authority is a Member of the North West Local Authorities Employers Organisation. For 2015/16 Councillor Roy Gladden was the appointed representative.

Confirmation of continuing membership and nomination for this position is now requested.

(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.

The Members representing the Authority are Councillor Hanratty, Councillor Maloney and Councillor Rennie. Councillor Byrom attends as an observer.

(D) Community Risk Intervention Service (formerly Fire Support Network)

Councillor Jean Stapleton is currently appointed as a Trustee and Member of the Community Risk Intervention Service. Councillor Lesley Rennie is also a Trustee and Member at the invitation of the Community Risk Intervention Service. Any changes in Trusteeship must be approved by the Board.

(E) Association of Metropolitan Fire & Rescue Authorities

The Authority appointed Councillors Hanratty and Maloney to the Association of Metropolitan Fire & Rescue Authorities in 2015/16.
Members are requested to confirm appointment to this Association for 2016/17.

(F) Merseyside Brussels Office

This organisation represents the interests of the local authorities in Merseyside and other public sector and voluntary organisations within the European Community offices in Brussels.

At the Annual Meeting 2015, the Authority approved continued affiliation to the Merseyside Brussels Office and appointed Councillor Linda Maloney as the Authority's representative.

Members are asked to confirm if they wish to continue Membership of the Merseyside Brussels Office; and if so, to appoint a Member as the representative. As the operating costs of the Merseyside Brussels Office are now covered by Merseytravel, there is no longer a cost to the Authority in relation to this affiliation.

(G) Liverpool City Region LEP

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service has membership of this Organisation which is attended by a Senior Officer of MFRA. The cost of this membership for 2015/16 was £5,250.
Members are asked to confirm membership to this organisation for 2016/17.

Equality and Diversity Implications

4. Appointments and participation in the above organisations will assist the Authority in developing diversity further.

Staff Implications

5. There are no staff implications in relation to this report.

Legal Implications

6. At its AGM, the Authority is required to appoint Members to any appropriate and approved outside organisations.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

7. The costs of membership of the above organisations can be met from existing budgets.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental 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.

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

9. The appointment of Members to outside organisations helps to develop the Authority's knowledge to ensure 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

GLOSSARY OF TERMS