MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	**AUTHORITY**		
DATE:	**14 JUNE 2016**	**REPORT NO:**	**CFO/048/16**
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:	**MEETINGS WITH NATIONAL POLITICIANS AT PARTY POLITICAL CONFERENCES**		

APPENDICES:	

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the attendance of Members at meetings held at the location of party political conferences, in order to make Authority related representations in line with the Members Scheme of Allowances.

Recommendation

2. That Members;

   a. approve appropriate representatives of the political groups of the Authority to attend meetings with Ministers, Opposition Spokespersons and other relevant national politicians, to be held at the location of their own party political conferences, to discuss issues relating to the business of the Authority: and

   b. approve appropriate travel and subsistence expenses for such meetings , but no payment of conference fees be made:

   c. report back to the Authority regarding issues raised and responses; and progress on information received.

Introduction and Background

3. The Authority has in previous years, approved the attendance of representatives of its party political groups at meetings held at the venue of their respective autumn party conference. The purpose of such attendance has been to meet

with national politicians whenever possible during conference week, to act as advocates for the work of the Service; and to discuss issues of importance to the Authority from a national perspective.

4. Members are requested to consider if they wish to approve the recommendation in this report, to enable the attendance of Authority Members at meetings convened at party conferences, to make representations on behalf of the Authority at a significant political level.

Equality and Diversity Implications

5. There are no Equality and Diversity implications contained within this report.

Staff Implications

6. There are no staff implications contained within this report.

Legal Implications

7. It is important that the right representation is agreed by Members so that the relevant allowances can be paid pursuant to the Members Allowance Regulations 2003.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

8. There will be some costs in relation to Members attendance at events, which will depend on particular circumstances of attendance and regularity of such events. However, these costs can be contained within the existing Democratic Representation budget and the benefits of such representation can be significant.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

9. Members are required to use the most efficient method of travel to such events.

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

10. Representation with National politicians at party political conferences is imperative to ensure the views of the Authority, Service and Community are expressed and considered at key political level.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS