

**AGENDA ITEM:**

<b>REPORT TO:</b> Meeting of the	<b>MERSEYSIDE FIRE &amp; RESCUE AUTHORITY ANNUAL MEETING</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013</b>
<b>REPORT NO.</b>	<b>CFO/063/13</b>
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	<b>JANET HENSHAW – CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>KELLY JOHNSON – DEPUTY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER, EXTN; 4113</b>
<b>OFFICERS CONSULTED:</b>	
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS</b>

**THERE ARE NO APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT**

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 2013/14 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, as listed below:

Introduction & Background

3. (A) Local Government Association

At the 2012 Annual Meeting Councillors Hanratty, Byrom and Maloney (as an additional Member) were appointed as the representatives on the Fire Services Commission (which replaced the Fire Forum). Councillor Grannell was also appointed as the Authority's representative on the Urban 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 authorities appointed as necessary by the political groups to ensure political balance as provided by Article 9.3.*

For 2013, the LGA offered a 2.5% loyalty discount to all Authorities renewing their Membership and a further 2.5% prompt payment discount. Therefore, continued affiliation to the LGA was approved by the Authority at its Budget Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2013 and a payment of £10,460 (including a 5% discount) was made as requested.

In addition, the Authority has agreed 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 2012/13 Councillor John Joseph Kelly was the appointed representative and the cost of affiliation was £2,736.78

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

(C) National Joint Council

Currently Councillor Dave Hanratty is the appointed Spokesperson on the Employers side of the National Joint Council for Local Authorities Fire Brigades.

(C) North West Partnership Board

The North West Partnership Board was established following the end of North West Fire and Rescue Management Board which disbanded in 2010/11.

The Authority is represented by three Members on the North West Partnership Board. The Members representing the Authority are the Chair, one Vice Chair and the main Opposition Party Spokesperson.

The Authority is requested to nominate three elected representatives to membership of the Board.

(D) Fire Support Network

The Chair of the Authority is currently appointed as a Trustee and Member of the Fire Support Network.

(E) Association of Metropolitan Fire & Rescue Authorities

The Authority appointed Councillors Hanratty and Maloney to the Association of Metropolitan Fire & Rescue Authorities in 2012/13. Members are requested to confirm appointment to this Association for 2013/14.

(F) Local Authorities Confronting Disasters and Emergencies - L.A.C.D.E.

At the Annual Meeting 2012, the Authority confirmed its affiliation to L.A.C.D.E. and appointed Councillor Ted Grannell as representative. The cost of affiliation is approximately 500 dollars and the affiliation period is January – December.

(G) 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 2012, the Authority approved continued affiliation to the Merseyside Brussels Office and appointed Councillor Steve Niblock 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. The present cost of affiliation is £6,000 per annum.

Equality & 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 bodies.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

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

## Summary of Estimated Costs of Subscriptions

	£'000
LGA	10.5
NW Employers	2.8
Merseyside Brussels Office	6
LACDE	<u>0.5</u>
	<u>20.0</u>

### Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

8. Members of the Fire Authority are appointed to outside organisations to learn from them, lend support to them and encourage development for both the Authority and the organisation, to help create as safe an environment as possible in the most environmentally friendly manner.

### Contribution to Our Mission – To Achieve; 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.