MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**		
DATE:	**25 APRIL 2023**	**REPORT NO:**	**CFO/010/23**
PRESENTING OFFICER	**MONITORING OFFICER RIA GROVES**		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**RIA GROVES**	**REPORT AUTHOR:**	**RIA GROVES**
OFFICERS CONSULTED:			
TITLE OF REPORT:	**SCRUTINY OF OUTSIDE BODIES**		

APPENDICES:	

Purpose of Report

1. To request Members, review the current appointments and affiliations of Outside Bodies of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority ('the Authority')

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that Members;

   a) note the contents of the report and the presentation to the Committee and

   b) scrutinise the current membership and appointment to Outside Bodies

Introduction and Background

3. On the 9th June 2022 at the AGM, Members approved the continuing affiliation with the following Outside Bodies for 22/23:

   - Local Government Association
   - North West Employers Organisation
   - North West Fire and Rescue Advisory Forum Association of Metropolitan Fire & Rescue Authorities
   - Growth Platform
   - Merseyside Community Safety Partnership / Safer Merseyside Partnership

4. Members also approved at the AGM the appointment of representatives to those organisations.

Local Government Association (LGA)

5. The LGA is the national membership body for local authorities who work on behalf of its member to support, promote and improve local government.

6. The Fire and Rescue Service is an integral part of keeping our communities safe and secure. Within the LGA the Fire Services Management Committee represents the views and concerns of the fire sector working on the future direction of the fire and rescue service.

7. All Fire and Rescue Authorities in full or corporate membership of the LGA have the right to representation and vote in accordance with the LGA Governance Framework.

8. Members agreed at the Authority meeting on the 20th May 2021 that Members subscription and membership to the LGA will continue until Members determine otherwise. The Authority has been a member for the LGA for over 15 years and the current subscription cost for 2022/23 is £11684.18.

9. Cllr Byrom, Cllr Kenny and Cllr Roberts are appointed as Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority's representatives for the LGA.

North West Employers Organisation-

10. The North West Employers Organisation is a member owned and led organisation. The membership consists of the 36 Local Authorities within the geographical areas of Cheshire, Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Liverpool City Region.

11. The regional employer organisation provides specialist employer support with the aim of delivering tailored advice and interventions to help the organisation achieve its goal.

12. The Authority has been a member of this organisation for a long period of time since approximately 2007. The cost of membership for 21/22 was £2,736.78.

13. While Cllr Roberts was appointed as the Authority's representative, Officers have also had a lot of engagement during the Authority's membership and that continues to date.

North West Fire & Rescue Advisory Forum

14. The North West Fire and Rescue Forum is a collaborative forum of the five North West Fire and Rescue Authorities which include Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside.

15. It was established in April 2014 following the disbanding of the North West Partnership Board.

16. The purpose of the Forum was to ensure continuing collaboration between North West Fire and Rescue Authorities to promote increasing value in all aspects of service delivery, lobbying of interested partners to influence the future of fire and rescue service in the North West and leading and promoting continuous improvement through delivery of a sector led, peer reviewed approach.

17. The Chair of the Authority and Opposition spokesperson are the appointed representatives for the Authority.

Growth Platform

18. The Growth Platform was established jointly by the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership and Combined Authority to help strengthen, simplify, and coordinate the business landscape for the City Region with the aim to make it easier for businesses to start, grow and invest in the region and to create a fairer, greener, and more inclusive economy for all who live and work in the City Region

19. The Authority's representative on the Growth Platform is a senior officer within the Service which has previously been from the Prevention or Protection Directorates.

20. The Authority has been a member of the Growth Platform since 2015 and the cost of membership for 2022/23 was £4,700

Merseyside Community Safety Partnership/Safer Merseyside Partnership

21. The Partnerships have evolved since their inception with membership across each of the districts community safety partnerships.

22. Councillor Finneran was appointed to represent the Authority however Officers have a lot of engagement with the safety partnerships.

23. The appointed representatives or where appropriate Officers have been asked to attend the meeting to provide further feedback on the relevant outside bodies.

Equality and Diversity Implications

24. There are no direct implications arising out of this report.

Staff Implications

25. Although there is engagement from staff in some of the outside bodies the Authority are members of, the impact is limited in respect of resources and training required.

Legal Implications

26. There are no direct legal Implications arising out of this report.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

27. The costs associated with the membership and appointment to the outside bodies contained within this report can be met through existing budgets.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

28. There are no direct implications arising out of this report although there could be potential shared learning as a result of membership to the outside bodies.

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.*

29. The scrutiny of the Authority's appointments to outside bodies ensures that access to the relevant organisations allows the Authority to continue to deliver an equitable service to its communities.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

CFO/ /033/22 Appointment of Membership to Outside Bodies

GLOSSARY OF TERMS