

**AGENDA ITEM:**

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<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/064/13</b>
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	<b>JANET HENSHAW – CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>KELLYJOHNSON –DEPUTY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER – EXTN; 4113</b>
<b>OFFICERS CONSULTED:</b>	
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>MEETINGS WITH NATIONAL POLITICIANS AT PARTY POLITICAL CONFERENCES</b>

**THERE ARE NO APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT**

Purpose of Report

1. To consider possible 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:
  - (a) appropriate representatives of the political groups of the Authority be authorised 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) appropriate travel and subsistence expenses for such meetings be met but no payment of conference fees be made,
  - (c) Members are requested to report back to the Authority regarding issues raised and responses; and progress on information received.

Introduction & 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 conferences. The purpose of such attendance has been to meet with national politicians whenever possible during conference week to both 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 & Diversity Implications

5. None appertaining to this report.

#### Staff Implications

6. None in relation to this report. This report relates to Members of the Authority, not staff.

#### 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 Regulation 2003.

#### Financial Implications & Value for Money

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

#### 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 – To Achieve; 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**