

**MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

<b>MEETING OF THE:</b>	<b>MERSEYSIDE FIRE &amp; RESCUE AUTHORITY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b>		
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>26 JUNE 2014</b>	<b>REPORT NO:</b>	<b>CFO/071/14</b>
<b>PRESENTING OFFICER</b>			
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	<b>JANET HENSHAW</b>	<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	
<b>OFFICERS CONSULTED:</b>			
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS</b>		

<b>APPENDICES:</b>	<b>NONE</b>
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**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 2014/15 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 and Background**

3. (A) Local Government Association

At the 2013 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, however the Urban Commission was disbanded in October 2013.

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 2014, the LGA again 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 26th February 2014 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 2013/14 Councillor Roy Gladden was the appointed representative.

**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.

(D) North West Fire and Rescue Forum

The North West Fire and Rescue 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 and Chief Fire Officers.

The Members representing the Authority are the Chair and Vice Chair(s).

(E) Fire Support Network and Toxteth FireFit Hub

Councillor Tony Newman is currently appointed as a Trustee and Member of the Fire Support Network and the Toxteth FireFit Hub as part of his current Lead Member role. Any changes in Trusteeships must be approved by the Company Board.

(F) Association of Metropolitan Fire & Rescue Authorities

The Authority appointed Councillors Hanratty and Maloney to the Association of Metropolitan Fire & Rescue Authorities in 2013/14. Members are requested to confirm appointment to this Association for 2014/15.

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

At the Annual Meeting 2013, 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.

(H) 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 2013, 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 previous cost of affiliation was £6,000 per annum, however the operating costs of the Merseyside Brussels Office are now covered by Merseytravel and as a result there is no cost to the Fire and Rescue Authority. This represents an annual saving in the region of £6,000

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**Equality and Diversity Implications**

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

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**Staff Implications**

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

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**Legal Implications**

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

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**Financial Implications & Value for Money**

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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	0.0
LACDE	<u>0.5</u>

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

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8. Members of the 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.

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

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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.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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**GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

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