

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	AUTHORITY BUDGET MEETING		
DATE:	26 FEBRUARY 2015	REPORT NO:	CFO/006/15
PRESENTING OFFICER	KIERAN TIMMINS		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	JANET HENSHAW	REPORT AUTHOR:	HELEN PEEK
OFFICERS CONSULTED:			
TITLE OF REPORT:	LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUBSCRIPTION 2015/16		
APPENDICES:	APPENDIX A:	LGA LETTER FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE RE: LGA SUBSCRIPTION 2015/16	

Purpose of Report

1. To request that Members consider continuing Authority membership of the Local Government Association

Recommendation

2. That Members;
 - a. Consider if the Authority wish to continue membership with the Local Government Association (LGA);
 - b. Note the freeze of the LGA subscription fee for a further year and the 2.5% loyalty discount to all Fire and Rescue Authorities not on notice, alongside the 2.5% prompt payment discount to Authorities who pay the annual subscription in full by 30th June 2014, and;
 - c. Consider if the Authority wish to take up the offer of the discounted subscription, for 2015/16, of £10,460 plus VAT, and instruct the Democratic Services Manager to raise purchase order and make subscription payment in full, before 30th June 2015.

Introduction and Background

3. Members will be aware that the Authority has been a long standing member of the LGA and the purpose of this report is to advise that notification of the fees for 2015/16 has been received, and seek approval for continued affiliation and payment.
4. The LGA have previously stated that they are committed to keeping the cost of membership as low as possible. The LGA Leadership Board agreed in

November 2014 to freeze membership subscriptions for a further year, and are again offering a 2.5% loyalty discount for Fire and Rescue Authorities who are not on notice. This is alongside an offer of 2.5% prompt payment to Authorities who pay the subscription fee in full, before 30th June 2015, and equates to the same fees paid for 2013/14, and 2014/15.

5. The Authority is asked to consider the value of being a member of the LGA and if it wishes to continue affiliation with the LGA for 2015/16, consider taking advantage of the discounted subscription for early payment
6. A letter from Carolyn Downs, LGA Chief Executive is attached (Appendix A) details the wide range of issues which the LGA have worked with Fire and Rescue Authorities, to address.

Equality and Diversity Implications

7. Membership with the LGA is a network for sharing views and discussing issues amongst similar organisations, to assist in the influencing of national LGA policy.
8. A network of this type allows equality and diversity considerations to be taken into account before national policies are set.

Staff Implications

9. There are no direct staff implications relating to this report.

Legal Implications

10. The National Fire Lawyers Group, of which the Clerk is a member, receives regular updates from the LGA and therefore continued membership would assist this valuable service

Financial Implications & Value for Money

11. If the Authority gives approval to take advantage of the discounted loyalty fee and prompt payment discount, the cost of this £10,460 subscription can be met from existing budgets.
12. This would see value for money with a freeze of subscription matching that of 2013/14 and 2014/15, compared to higher membership charges in previous years in excess of £10,735
13. It is important to note that additional costs are likely to be incurred for travel and accommodation (if required) when attending LGA Conferences, but these costs are usually contained within existing budgets and are covered by the Members Allowance Scheme.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

14. There are no direct implications within this report relating to risk management, health and safety or the environment.

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

15. Membership of the LGA allows Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority to contribute to, and benefit from the work of the LGA in championing the local government sector.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

LGA **Local Government Association**