

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING		
DATE:	11 JUNE 2015	REPORT NO:	CFO/053/15
PRESENTING OFFICER	MONITORING OFFICER		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	JANET HENSHAW	REPORT AUTHOR:	KELLY KELLAWAY – DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER, EXT 4113
OFFICERS CONSULTED:			
TITLE OF REPORT:	APPROVED CONFERENCES AND OUTSIDE MEETINGS		
APPENDICES:	APPENDIX A:	DRAFT OUTLINE OF APPROVED CONFERENCES/ OUTSIDE MEETINGS	

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the list of approved conferences and outside meetings and any revisions to the list that the Authority wish to make.

Recommendation

2. That the draft list of conferences attached to the report, be approved subject to any suggested revision.

Introduction and Background

3. Members' presence at conferences and outside meetings is vital to their role and development as Authority Members. It ensures that Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority is included in and informed of local and national issues to enable Members to make the best decisions for the public of Merseyside.
4. In accordance with the Scheme of Members Allowances, the Authority annually reviews the conferences and outside meetings which are approved as standing events at which the Authority should be represented by appropriate numbers of Members and Officers. The existing list is appended to this report and Members are requested to consider any revisions they think necessary.
5. Member representation at approved conferences, outside meetings and at any other conferences, is determined and agreed by the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chair of the Authority and/ or Vice-Chair's and Party Leaders.

6. Where a conference or meeting is directly linked to a Lead Member or Ambassador role, the appropriate Member may be requested to attend to represent the Authority.

Equality and Diversity Implications

7. There are no equality and diversity issues arising directly from this report.

Staff Implications

8. There are no direct staff implications arising directly from this report, however Officers may be required to accompany Members at events relating to their areas of expertise.

Legal Implications

9. There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

10. A sum of £14,800 has been allocated in the Democratic Representation Budget for the payment of Conference Fees for Members. It is anticipated that costs will be contained within the agreed budgets.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

11. Members use the most efficient method of travel when attending conferences and outside meetings.

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

12. Members' attendance at conferences and outside meetings enables the Authority to be represented appropriately, providing an opportunity to put forward suggestions, share experience and gain further knowledge. This ensures that the Authority is best placed to make the most appropriate decisions; and provide the best service possible to the communities of Merseyside.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS
