

AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT TO:	MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY
DATE:	TUESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2013
REPORT NO.	CFO/099/13
REPORTING OFFICER:	JANET HENSHAW, CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY
CONTACT OFFICER:	HELEN PEEK, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	CHAIR OF THE AUTHORITY
SUBJECT:	APPOINTMENTS OF CO-OPTED MEMBER, AND INDEPENDENT PERSON

THERE ARE APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT

APPENDIX A	TITLE	CFO/067/13 APPENDIX E JOB DESCRIPTION – INDEPENDENT PERSON
B		CFO/067/13 APPENDIX F CO-OPTED MEMBER OF THE PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

ATTACHED – HARD COPY

Purpose of Report

1. To request that Members consider the recommendations of the Interview Panel in relation to the proposed candidates for appointment to the roles of Co-Opted Member, and Independent Person.

Recommendation

2. That Members;
 - a) Note the recommendation of the interview panel in relation to the appointment of an Independent Person, and
 - i. The Authority confirm the appointment of Mr Anthony Boyle as Independent Person, subject to satisfactory References.
 - b) Note the recommendation of the interview panel in relation to the appointment of Co-Opted Member; and
 - ii. The Authority confirm the appointment of Mr Ian Parkinson to the position of Co-Opted Member of the Authority.

Introduction & Background

3. The Authority approved at the Annual meeting 11th June 2013, for the appointment of an Independent Person, to be advertised locally and interviewed, in order to provide a service as and when required by the Localism Act 2011, and the appointment of a co-opted Member to sit on the Performance and Scrutiny Committee in a non-voting capacity under the terms set out in the job role and responsibilities.
4. The positions of Independent Person and Co-Opted Member were advertised on the Authority's website on 25th June 2013 with the closing date for applications on 5th July 2013, following which successful candidates were invited to interview.
5. The interview panel consisted of the Chair of the Authority, the Clerk to the Authority and the Democratic Services Manager, and interviews conducted on 7th August and 22nd August 2013.
6. Following the close of the interviews the candidates who the interview panel feel most appropriate for the roles advertised, and recommend that the Authority appoint to those roles, have been invited to attend the meeting today to meet the Authority.

Equality & Diversity Implications

7. There are no Equality and Diversity Implications arising from this report.

Staff Implications

8. The Independent Person and Co-Opted Member will receive training, advise, and liaise with the Legal and Democratic Services Teams.

Legal Implications

9. Following the abolition of the Standards Board for England the Authority have adopted the roles of Independent person and Co-Opted Member, within its structure, as per the requirements set out in the Localism Act 2011.
10. The Independent Person will work with the Clerk to consider any allegations received regarding an Authority Member, under the complaint's procedure, and consider if that Member has failed to adhered to the Authority's code of conduct.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

11. The cost for the allowances associated with the role of Independent Person and Co-Opted Member are contained within the current budget set by the Authority for

2013/14, and allowances are set out within the Members Scheme of Allowances (CFO/067/13).

12. Co-Opted Member Allowance £297.00 Per Annum plus travel expenses
13. Independent Person will be able to claim payment of £25.00 per hour for work carried out in respect of complaint investigations under the Members Code of Conduct, plus travel time of £12.50 per hour (pro rata)

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

14. The appointed Co-Opted Member will sit on the Performance and Scrutiny Committee to bring an element of independent view to scrutiny, which will contribute to considering and reducing risk to the Authority and the community of Merseyside.

Contribution to Our Mission – To Achieve; Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters”

15. Appointment of a Co-Opted Member and an Independent Person will ensure the Authority’s standards are maintained to a high level, contributing to an excellent professional Authority for the community of Merseyside, with a broadened ability to scrutinise decisions, risk and performance, to ensure our Mission is achieved.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

CFO/067/13 Members Scheme of Allowances.

***Glossary of Terms**