

AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT TO:	MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY
DATE:	TUESDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2012
REPORT NO.	CFO/158 /12
REPORTING OFFICER:	DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
CONTACT OFFICER:	DEB APPLETON, DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC PLANNING, x4402
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	
SUBJECT:	MERSEYSIDE BRUSSELS OFFICE UPDATE PRESENTATION

THERE ARE NO APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members of a presentation on the work of the Merseyside Brussels Office in response to a resolution made at the Annual General Meeting of the Authority on 12th June 2012

Recommendation

2. That Members;
 - a) Note the content of this report and the presentation regarding the Merseyside Brussels Office as requested at the Annual General Meeting of the Authority

Introduction & Background

3. At the Annual General Meeting on 12th June 2012, the Authority approved the renewal of MFRA's membership of the Merseyside Brussels Office and requested that the benefits of the membership be kept under review. This included inviting James Sharples, the lead officer for the Merseyside Brussels Office to speak to a meeting of the full Authority. It was considered that the December meeting would be most appropriate, being mid way through the municipal year.
4. To that end, Mr Sharples will attend the Authority meeting to provide an update to Members that will cover some of the following areas:
 - What's happening with the next EU budget and what this means in terms of Merseyside possibly having its own European Regional Development fund and European Social Fund allocations of money from 2014-2020. How the themes this allocation can be used to support will be decided over the course of 2013

and how MF&RA can input into this process to try and ensure the opportunities available fit with the priorities for MFRA.

- What the opportunities there will be for MF&RA under the next EU budget in terms of the suite of trans-national funds; the funds MFRA can compete for across Europe.
- What trans-national funding is left under the current EU budget.
- Relevant policy developments, such as the Working Time Directive review, the EU Atlantic Strategy, civil protection, safety and security.

Equality & Diversity Implications

5. There are no equality and diversity implications related to this report

Staff Implications

6. There are no staff implications related to this report.

Legal Implications

7. There are no legal implications directly related to this report.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

8. The present cost of affiliation to Merseyside Brussels office is £6,000 per annum.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

9. There are no risk management, health and safety or environmental implications related to this report.

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

10. Membership of Merseyside Brussels Office presents opportunities for partnership working and funding of initiatives and projects.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

CFO/073/12 Appointment To Outside Organisations

***Glossary of Terms**

Please list any acronyms used within this Report and appendices, including their meaning.