

## AGENDA ITEM:

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>MERSEYSIDE FIRE &amp; RESCUE AUTHORITY</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>TUESDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2012</b>
<b>REPORT NO.</b>	<b>CFO/099/12</b>
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	<b>CHIEF FIRE OFFICER</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>AREA MANAGER SEARLE</b>
<b>OFFICERS CONSULTED:</b>	<b>STATION MANAGER LAWLESS</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>UKRO CHALLENGE 2013</b>

### ATTACHMENTS

#### **APPENDIX A, EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

#### Purpose of Report

1. To request that Members approve Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority hosting the United Kingdom Rescue Organisation (UKRO) Challenge 2013.

#### Recommendation

2. That Members note the contents of this report and agree in principle to host the UKRO Challenge at zero cost to the Authority.

#### Introduction & Background

3. The objectives of UKRO are to bring vehicle extrication to its professional pinnacle, to drive the national agenda on road death reduction and to showcase other technical rescue disciplines including trauma, rope rescue, urban search and rescue and water rescue. During the UKRO Challenge there are competitions in all five of the rescue disciplines mentioned as well as an area for respective sponsors to host their promotional stands and an area for MFRA to utilise for the promotion of prevention and protection advice.
4. Extrication teams from Fire and Rescue Services train throughout the year to reach an extremely high competition standard in all of the disciplines. Each year regional extrication challenges are held at various locations across the UK, followed by the annual national extrication challenge. In 2011 this was held in London with London Fire Brigade hosting the event and Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service doing likewise for 2012.

5. The UKRO challenge event is held over 3 days and consists of an opening ceremony on the Thursday evening with the challenges taking place throughout Friday and Saturday. There is a CFOA conference running concurrently on the Friday followed by a sponsor's dinner in the evening. There is a closing ceremony late afternoon on the Saturday.
6. A MFRA management team has been set up consisting of a project manager and several other key management positions. A programmed sequence of management meetings has been scheduled which will run up to the event itself. UKRO also have key representatives who form part of this team.
7. The management team have held meetings with key individuals from Liverpool City Council and the BT Conference Centre and have provisionally booked the Echo Arena to host the opening and closing ceremony. The land adjacent to the arena currently being utilised as a car park has been obtained and will be utilised to host the challenge events themselves. One exception to this is the water rescue event which will be held in the dock system once assurance has been given by the harbourmaster.
8. As stated previously, running concurrently to the Challenge is the CFOA conference for Technical Response (CFO Stephens is the CFOA lead officer for Technical Response). The conference is managed and delivered by CFOA staff and the only responsibility on MFRA is to source a suitable location. The management team have provisionally sourced the BT Conference Centre.
9. Funding for the challenge is supported by a £30,000 payment from UKRO for hosting the event. Any expenditure greater than this sum is met by the host Service. It is anticipated that this event will be at zero cost to the Authority as any excess expenditure will be met by funding from sponsorship.
10. The dates that the management team have identified to host the event are from the 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2013 (These have been agreed with the Echo Arena on a provisional basis). As the event is being held on a prestigious area of the City Centre, it is anticipated that there will be a high level of interest which will provide the opportunity for MFRA to demonstrate to the public the various elements of Technical Response provided by the Authority.

#### Equality & Diversity Implications

11. A full EIA is attached at Appendix A.

#### Staff Implications

12. A management team has been formed which has the relevant skills and experience to deliver the event. The workload will be subsumed into the current working days of the people involved.
13. Nearer to the event expressions of interest will be sought for volunteers to assist with hosting the event. This will cover various roles ranging from assisting with the

management of personnel to being casualties in the Challenge events. It is anticipated that personnel will be sourced from all areas of the Service and the Princes Trust programme.

### Legal Implications

14. An agreement with the organising body will be required. This has not been provided to the Authority to date.
15. The Authorities insurers will need to be informed and a decision made by them as to whether this event will be covered under its usual insurance arrangements. If the event is covered the excess on the public liability policy is £500,000 and therefore every possible effort should be made to mitigate any claim for negligence against the Authority.

### Financial Implications & Value for Money

16. As stated previously, UKRO provide a £30,000 contribution for hosting the event. A full costing sheet is in the process of being prepared and will be reported to Members upon completion. The UKRO Challenge is to run at zero cost to the Authority and sponsorship is currently being sourced from suitable organisations.

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

17. The necessary arrangements will be put into place to ensure that the Authority complies with Health and Safety and Environmental legislation.

### Contribution to Achieving Our Purpose:

“Safer, Stronger, Communities – Safe, Effective Firefighters”

18. This event will give a visual demonstration to the public of the diverse operational incidents that MFRA is capable of dealing with. An extremely positive image of the organisation will be given to the public as well as showcasing the very best equipment and techniques available to the Fire and Rescue Service. MFRA personnel will enter into the Challenges to improve our rescue techniques.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

List any supporting documents/evidence here

### **\*Glossary of Terms**

UKRO United Kingdom Rescue Organisation  
USAR Urban Search and Rescue.