

<b>MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY</b>			
<b>MEETING OF THE:</b>	<b>POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE</b>		
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>29 JULY 2021</b>	<b>REPORT NO:</b>	<b>CFO/047/21</b>
<b>PRESENTING OFFICER</b>	<b>RIA GROVES</b>		
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	<b>RIA GROVES</b>	<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	<b>RIA GROVES GEMMA SUNG</b>
<b>OFFICERS CONSULTED:</b>	<b>SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM</b>		
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PLAN</b>		
<b>APPENDICES:</b>	<b>APPENDIX A: DRAFT FORWARD WORK PLAN</b>		

### **Purpose of Report**

1. To request that Members consider and approve the DRAFT Forward Work Plan (FwP) for the Authority's Scrutiny Committee (attached at Appendix A)

### **Recommendation**

2. That Members;
  - a. Consider the draft FwP for the Authority's Scrutiny Committee (attached at Appendix A).

### **Introduction and Background**

3. The reintroduction of the forward work plan for the scrutiny committee as a result of the scrutiny review and consultation in 2018 has successfully engaged Members in scrutinising items linked to the IRMP or the Authority's aims and vision.
4. Members have been provided with presentations of key areas the respective Directorates are working towards in the near future as part of their consideration for a new forward work plan for 2021/22.
5. There are two items which have been proposed to be carried forward into this year's FwP namely the revised home fire safety strategy plan and the impact of applications within Fire Control due to Covid restrictions and the project plan timetable of implementation respectively. It was also agreed that the Membership of Outside Bodies by the Authority would remain on the FwP however will be stayed for the time being until attendance at such meeting recommence post Covid.

6. It is intended that specific Scrutiny “Rapid Reviews” continue to take place throughout the year; and these are captured within the FwP.
7. The proposed FwP also identifies how each item for scrutiny links to the Authority’s IRMP, or its Vision and Aims, the proposed format for undertaking each review; and the proposed timescales/ dates for reporting back to Members whenever possible.
8. The FwP is indicative. It is recognised that there will be occasions when an item needs to be brought forward for earlier review, or where it is necessary to delay the development of review to a later date therefore the FwP will remain flexible and will be regularly revisited and updated throughout the year as appropriate.

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### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

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9. Any specific equality and diversity implications, will be fully considered throughout the scrutiny reviews.

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### **Staff Implications**

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10. Creating a structured FwP for the Scrutiny Committee, will ensure that Officer and Member time is used to best effect, in a manner which will add value and ensure greater accountability.
11. Providing due consideration to the reporting timescales within the FwP, will also ensure that Officers have sufficient opportunity to prepare for the scrutiny reviews.

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### **Legal Implications**

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12. The Fire and Rescue National Framework, advocates that FRA’s must be accountable to communities for the service they provide; and “In demonstrating their accountability to communities for the service they provide, FRA’s need to: have scrutiny arrangements in place that reflect the high standard communities expect for an important public safety service”. The FwP for the Scrutiny Committee, that is publically available, will ensure that the Authority is fulfilling this requirement. It is also recommended practice from the LGA.

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### **Financial Implications & Value for Money**

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13. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
14. Any specific financial implications, will be fully considered throughout the scrutiny reviews for this e specified within the plan.

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

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15. There are no direct risk management, health and safety or environment implications arising from this report. However, having robust, effective scrutiny arrangements in place, will ensure that the Authority is best placed to identify any potential implications should they arise.
16. Any specific risk management, health and safety, or environmental implications, will be fully considered throughout the scrutiny reviews.
17. There are no direct environmental implications arising from the report, the items to be scrutinised with address any such risk at the time.

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Contribution to Our Vision: *To be the best Fire & Rescue Service in the UK. One team, putting its communities first.*

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18. Having a structured Forward Work Plan for Scrutiny, will enable MFRA to assure itself that it continues to deliver against its

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## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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**CFO/111/11** If this report follows on from another, list the previous report(s)

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## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

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- MFRA** Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority is the physical and legal entity. When writing reports MFRA is the “object”.
- MFRS** Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service is the service provided by MFRA. When writing reports MFRS is the “action”
- E.G.** You are employed by the Authority (MFRA). The job you do forms part of the Service (MFRS) provided by the Authority (MFRA).  
If in doubt use MFRA.