

AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT TO: Meeting of the	MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY
DATE:	TUESDAY 3 <sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2013
REPORT NO.	CFO/137/13
REPORTING OFFICER:	DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
CONTACT OFFICER:	DEB APPLETON, DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE, EXTN; 4402
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SUBJECT:	STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE 2013

APPENDIX (A) TITLE Statement of Assurance 2013

ATTACHED –HARD COPY

Purpose of Report

1. To request that Members consider and approve the Authority's Statement of Assurance 2013 for publication on the website.

Recommendation

2. That Members approve the Statement of Assurance attached at Appendix A.

Introduction & Background

3. The Fire and Rescue Service National Framework published in 2012 sets out a requirement for fire and rescue authorities to publish Statements of Assurance. It says:

***'Fire and rescue authorities must provide annual assurance on financial, governance and operational matters and show how they have had due regard to the expectations set out in their integrated risk management plan and the requirements included in the Framework. To provide assurance, fire and rescue authorities must publish an annual statement of assurance'.***

2. The National Framework goes on to say that one of the principal aims of the statement of assurance is to provide an accessible way in which communities, Government, local authorities and other partners may make a valid assessment of their local Fire and Rescue Authority's performance. The statement of assurance will also be used as a source of information on which to base the Secretary of State's biennial report under section 25 of the *Fire and Rescue Act 2004*.
3. Where Fire and Rescue Authorities have already set out relevant information that is clear, accessible, and user-friendly within existing documents, they may wish to include extracts, or links to these documents within their statement of assurance.
4. With this in mind, this first MFRA Statement of Assurance has been prepared in a way that does not substantially duplicate existing plans, reports and other documents, but instead includes links to existing documents held on the website, or in some cases to documents held by other organisations or the Government.

#### Equality & Diversity Implications

5. Accessibility has been considered and although the Statement is designed to be read as an electronic document with links to other material copies of documents will be provided on request.

#### Staff Implications

6. There are no staff implications arising from this report.

#### Legal Implications

7. The publication of a Statement of Assurance is a requirement of the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework, which is itself a requirement of the Fire and Rescue Service Act 2004.

#### Financial Implications & Value for Money

8. There are no financial implications arising from this report. The Statement gives details on financial performance and future challenges.

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

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

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

10. Producing the Statement will ensure that the Authority complies with legal requirements but will also provide accessible information to any stakeholders who wish to learn more about MRFA.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England 2012 onwards

**\*Glossary of Terms**

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