

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	COMMUNITY SAFETY & PROTECTION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	6 APRIL 2023	REPORT NO:	CFO/001/23
PRESENTING OFFICER	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER PHIL GARRIGAN		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE OFFICER DAVE MOTTRAM	REPORT AUTHOR:	KEVIN LONGSHAW
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM GM PHIL BYRNE GM MIKE CLYNCH		
TITLE OF REPORT:	PROTECTION FIRE STANDARD		

APPENDICES:	
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Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members of the full implementation of the Protection Fire Standard (hereafter referred to as the Standard) in to business as usual within the Directorate. The standard and the associated implementation toolkit are provided as appendix A and B to this report

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that Members note the information provided in this report.

Introduction and Background

3. The Standard was issued by the Fire Standards Board (FSB) on 3rd September 2021 and originally contained 19 specific criteria for a Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) to adopt in order to comply with the requirements therein. Following a review of the Standard by the FSB, the number of criteria was reduced to 18 and the subsequent revised Standard was released in September 2022.
4. To assist an FRS in tracking and monitoring the implementation of each standard that is published, a toolkit is also provided. All implementation toolkits are stored on the portal within the Strategy and Performance Directorate.
5. The overarching desired outcome of the Standard is threefold:
 - *A fire and rescue service that improves the safety and wellbeing of its communities by reducing risks and incidents in the built environment. It does this through educating and regulating those responsible for keeping buildings safe to adopt safer behaviours and delivering proportionate and robust fire protection activities, complying with its statutory responsibilities*

- *One with a competent protection workforce which are targeted in line with its community risk management plan, utilising data and business intelligence to optimise resources. It proactively plans, responds and adapts to the diverse and changing needs of its community, ensuring its services are equally available to all*
 - *A service with a learning and sharing culture, working collaboratively with others where appropriate, seeking to improve and innovate protection activities. One that contributes to a more consistent national approach to reducing risk and keeping communities safe*
6. The implementation of the Standard is one of the key deliverables within the 2022/23 Protection Functional Delivery Plan. Progress has been tracked via the Protection Management team within the Directorate with updates provided as a standing agenda item at the Community Risk Management (CRM) Protection Boards held every other month.
 7. It is worthy to note that only 17 of the 18 criteria within the Standard are applicable to MFRS. Criteria 15 states:

Where Fire Investigation is managed within its protection function, a fire and rescue service must investigate, report on and learn from the cause and behaviour of fires, working with others when appropriate

As the Incident Investigation Team (IIT) resides within Prevention Department, the discharge of this criteria is not applicable for MFRS within the confines of this Standard. For the purposes of reporting, this criteria is recorded as fully compliant on the toolkit and a note inserted indicating that Fire Investigation does not reside within Protection for MFRS.

8. The initial analysis of the criteria within the Standard revealed that MFRS were in a healthy position, with 11 of the (now) 18 criteria already being in place. The remaining 7 have been addressed over the course of the 2022/23 financial year with the discharge of the final criteria to be implemented being reported at the CRM Protection Board 10th January 2023.
9. In addition, we identified that the implementation toolkit did not provide a facility for any FRS to capture details or evidence of where they may exceed the minimum requirements stipulated within the Standard.
10. Consequently, we made suggestions to the FSB for the addition of an 'areas of good practice' section to be added to the implementation toolkit. This suggestion was accepted and supported by the FSB.

Equality and Diversity Implications

11. All functional plan deliverables, including the implementation of the Standard have been assessed from an equality and diversity perspective and recorded in the associated Equality Impact Assessment (EIA).

Staff Implications

12. MFRS were contributory partners to the development of the Protection Fire Standard. As such, staff implications regarding current work practices are considered to be minimal but will be constantly reviewed and monitored via extant managerial forums and reporting measures within the Directorate.

Legal Implications

13. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. Full implementation of the 18 criteria ensures full accordance with the Protection Fire Standard

Financial Implications & Value for Money

14. Departmental structure and job evaluations have been undertaken as part of the requirements to discharge criteria 6 (***Maintain an ability to deliver necessary statutory protection activities at all times***) and criteria 11 (***Have in place necessary succession planning and processes to maintain a sustainable competent protection workforce***).

Directorate resourcing is also currently benefitting from uplift grant funding provided by the NFCC Protection Policy Reform Unit (PPRU).

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

15. Full implementation of the Protection Fire Standard aligns departmental activities to National standard requirements and ensures provision of effective Protection related services and personnel

Contribution to Our Vision: *To be the best Fire & Rescue Service in the UK.*

Our Purpose: *Here to serve, Here to protect, Here to keep you safe.*

At the time of submitting this report, MFRS are currently the only FRS to have fully implemented the Protection Fire Standard.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

CRM	Community Risk Management
EIA	Equality Impact Assessment
FRS	Fire and Rescue Service
FSB	Fire Standards Board
MFRS	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
NFCC	National Fire Chief's Council
PMB	Protection Management Board
PPRU	Protection Policy Reform Unit
TNA	Training Needs Analysis