

## MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF THE:	AUTHORITY		
DATE:	18 MAY 2023	REPORT NO:	CFO/012/23
PRESENTING OFFICER	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER PHIL GARRIGAN		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	DAVE MOTTRAM	REPORT AUTHOR:	PAUL KAY
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	SLT		
TITLE OF REPORT:	BRITISH FIREFIGHTER CHALLENGE 2024		

APPENDICES:	APPENDIX A:	BRITISH FIREFIGHTER CHALLENGE 2024 FLYER
	APPENDIX B:	EIA

### Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members of the opportunity for Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority ('the Authority') to host the 2024 British Firefighter Challenge in Liverpool City Centre.

### Recommendation

2. It is recommended that Members that;
  - a) approve the proposal that the Authority hosts the British Firefighter Challenge in 2024 and;
  - b) approve the establishment of a £50k reserve as outlined in the report, to cover any costs not funded from sponsorship.

### Introduction and Background

3. The British Firefighter Challenge ('BFC') is a competition organised by Firefighters, for Firefighters and hosted by a different Fire and Rescue Service each year.

It is an annual sporting event, with the aim to achieve the following:

- Inspire health and fitness across the UK Fire and Rescue Service
- Support the physical and mental rehabilitation of operational and retired colleagues by fundraising for the Firefighters Charity
- Provide a social platform that brings Firefighters and their families together from around the World
- Advocate for Mental Health - social events, participation, volunteering, camaraderie, a feeling of belonging

- Promote volunteering to enhance community development, community spirit, self-confidence, life skills
  - Equality and diversity - a unique Fire Service sporting event that can boast ages 18 to 60+ entering, with over 10% female entries
  - Economic opportunity - a mass audience event, the competition moves to new locations in the UK each year.
  - Engage with the younger generation – provide activities for the whole family, including community safety and fitness challenges
4. There is an opportunity for Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service to host the event in conjunction with Pride on the weekend of 27 and 28 July, 2024
  5. The proposal includes hosting the event at the iconic Pier Head on Water Street between The Liver Buildings and the Cunard Building.
  6. The Challenge will see a total of 250 Male and Female firefighters from around the world descend on Liverpool City Centre and go head-to-head competing across 8 physical challenges over the course of two days which includes:
    - Crofton Stair ascent
    - Harken haul lift
    - Crofton stair descent
    - Corhaven force
    - Angus fire hose drag
    - Angus fire hose makeup
    - Container carry
    - Ruth Lee casualty rescue
  7. Wearing breathing apparatus and full Personal Protective Equipment the challenges simulate real-life emergency situations, including the container carry and casualty rescue.
  8. The host Fire and Rescue Service would be required to nominate a Project Manager; the BFC team will arrange a site visit in spring 2023 to ensure the location meets all the requirements, with a follow-up meeting to speak through any early concerns.
  9. The host Fire and Rescue Service undertakes at least 50% of event costs (with the BFC Team attracting the other 50%), however if they fail to reach this amount through corporate sponsorship, the host Fire and Rescue Service will fund the difference. The costs from previous events have been in the region of £50,000. If Members approve to undertake the cost of hosting this event MFRS would seek to obtain sponsorship to help cover some or all of these costs.
  10. If approved MFRS will appoint a Senior Manager as project manager who will liaise with a project manager from the BFC overseeing the organisation and implementation of the event. Meetings will be held between MFRS and BFC monthly to manage the event accordingly.

11. As the proposal would include MFRS and BFC to host the BFC 2024 event in conjunction with Pride and although the BFC is primarily a fitness event, and the Pride event being more of a celebration/carnival event MFRS would seek to take the opportunity to create greater engagement with the community during the event.
12. Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service are hosting the 2023 event on 29-30th July, MFRS will be sending competitors and representatives to identify best practice.

### **Managing the Event**

13. The BFC team will provide all the course equipment and all the required key roles needed to run the course over the two days of competition. MFRS will provide 50 volunteers each day and a volunteer co-ordinator to manage welfare/rotations.
14. The BFC team will co-ordinate registration and race briefing to competitors and volunteers each day. A volunteer co-ordinator must be assigned from MFRS to manage course volunteers, event marshals, charity collectors, staging area security checks and junior course roles. There must be enough volunteers to allow for rest periods as required.
15. The Project Manager of the BFC team will oversee exhibitor positioning and sponsorship opportunities. MFRS will be responsible for the onsite management of the vendors and exhibitors including all utilities required such as water, electric and WiFi. And will provide a liaison officer throughout the weekend to ensure there is no disruption.

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### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

16. An initial Equality Impact Assessment has been completed (Appendix B) and it is proposed that a more detailed EIA will be completed if approved to ensure that all aspects of volunteering, attendance and participation are considered.

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### **Staff Implications**

17. MFRS will seek to engage staff to assist with this event as volunteers. MFRS will undertake a recruitment drive of 50 volunteers.

### **Staffing the Event**

18. Wednesday 24th July 2024 –Team to prepare a sterile working area using fencing for construction of the tower. MFRS Team will assist setting up the perimeter fencing.
19. **Thursday 25th July 2024** –MFRS to provide a minimum 4 persons to assist BFC team for Tower construction.
20. **Friday 26th July 2024** –MFRS Liaison volunteer required to help assist and oversee works with BFC Team.
21. **Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th July 2024** – MFRS will provide a minimum of 20 volunteers or staff to be onsite by 0800 to help set up the course. A full volunteer briefing will be followed at 0830 for course management
22. **Monday 29th July 2024** - A full pack down of the course including tower, fencing and barriers will be required with the BFC Team. A dedicated team of 4 persons from MFRS will provide assistance. Shorter day approx 0900-1500.
23. **Tuesday 30th** – Fencing of site will be removed. MFRS will provide 2 persons to ensure fencing is removed by contractors safely and site is returned to normal business.
24. MFRS Project Manager will require two assistants for each event day. One for inside the course, helping the co-ordination and welfare of volunteers/competitors and one for around the course, to liaise with exhibitors, media, and maintain safety/crowd management.
25. The BFC Project Manager will remain outside the course to liaise with the host organising team. MFRS to assign 4 people to assist co-ordinating any tasks required of the events team as a whole.

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### **Legal Implications**

26. The Authority will be tendering for its insurance services for 2024 this year therefore the current incumbent insurers may not be the successful bidders in the upcoming tender, Legal Services will ensure that the insurance of this event is a requirement of any successful bidder, and the Authority will therefore have the required insurances in place at the time of event. In terms of the Authority's own liabilities. This will be subject to appropriate risk management and risk assessments of the event.
27. Any external vendors and exhibitors around the perimeter of the course are required to provide a PLI certificate.
28. If approved MFRS would manage the event using appropriate measures including an Event Management Plan (EMP) and Crowd Management Plan (CMP).

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

29. The BFC Team will provide all of the equipment for the course; the equipment has either been given to the BFC team, or is loaned annually in return for sponsorship (costs depending).
30. The BFC Tower constructed by Crofton Engineering is partly sponsored and covers costs of all maintenance, loan repayments, and team safety certification.
31. Registration fees cover the cost of administration for the website each year and are not given to the host. All sponsorship/income attracted for the event via the host Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) and the British Firefighter Challenge (BFC) team are to be paid into the BFC bank account. The BFC team will then pay all expenses relating directly to the event from this account.
32. The estimated total cost of the event is £50,000 based upon previous years costings, and the section below breaks this down over the expected cost areas. The event costs are usually shared between the BFC Team (£25,000) and host FRS, but BFC rely on generating sufficient sponsorship to meet its share. Although officers believe sponsorship income can be generated to fully fund the event, a £50k reserve has been established from the MFRS Community reserve and 2022/23 Community Prevention underspends if required. If the £50k reserve isn't needed it will be used to fund future additional community activity.

### **Itemised cost of Event**

33. Running costs are variable for each event. Below is an example of cost, which now stand at approx. £50,000.
  - Website fees £2,000
  - Stationary, Merchandise - £1,500-£2,000
  - Hammers and other perishable equipment items - £2,000
  - T-shirts - £4,500
  - Security - £2,000 - £3,000
  - Streaming, videography, photography - £6,000
  - Events company (PA, Music) - £4,000
  - Hire of venue and any additional rooms/buildings - £1000
  - Accommodation for the BFC Team - £1,500
  - Hire of Ambulance Services (St Johns or other) Advisory Group requirement £3,000
  - Entertainment licenses - £150-200
  - Council licenses - £100
  - Banner printing for course perimeter - £1,200-£2,000
  - Marquee hire - £1,000
  - Hire of; Fencing, Cherry Picker, Manitou (£1,500)
  - Cost of tower transport/erecting and dismantle of tower (£8,000)
  - Cost of tower maintenance, loan repayment, certification £5,000-£8,000

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

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34. Risk, Health and Safety and environmental matters will be considered in the planning process and be related to planning of event.

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**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.*

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35. MFRS hosting the BFC in 2024 will allow for more engagement with its community and demonstration of the attributes the Service holds.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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**GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

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