

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE		
DATE:	14 JANUARY 2014	REPORT NO:	CFO/008/14
PRESENTING OFFICER	DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	KIERAN TIMMINS	REPORT AUTHOR:	KIERAN TIMMINS
OFFICERS CONSULTED:			
TITLE OF REPORT:	GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON THE BIDDING PROCESS FOR 2015/16 TRANSFORMATION FUNDS		

APPENDICES:	APPENDIX A1:	LETTER FROM DCLG RE:
	APPENDIX A2:	GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION
	APPENDIX A3:	CONSULTATION ON BIDDING FOR
	APPENDIX B:	TRANSFORMATION FUNDS
		DRAFT APPLICATION FORM FOR
		TRANSFORMATION FUNDS
		MFRA RESPONSE TO
		CONSULTATION

Purpose of Report

1. To present to Members, the Government consultation on the bidding process for 2015/16 Transformation Funds and the proposed response from the Authority for approval.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that :-
 - a. Members note the report.
 - b. Members approve the proposed response.

Introduction and Background

3. Members will recall that the Government had previously announced that there would be some "Transformation" funds available for Fire & Rescue Authorities in 2015/16.
4. Specifically :-

- a. £30m of resource funding to encourage working between Fire & Rescue Authorities, collaboration with other blue lights services and to help meet the up-front costs of service transformation.
 - b. £45m of capital to help secure efficiencies and ensure that assets, such as fire stations are appropriately located to ensure efficient and effective service delivery.
5. The Government announced on 3rd December 2013 that a 6 week consultation on the bidding process would be undertaken The consultation document is attached as Appendix A. The consultation closes on 14th January 2014.
6. It is proposed that:-
 - a. There will be one bidding process for both funds.
 - b. There will be a lot based system, to avoid a small number of high savings projects monopolising the grant bid. At first sight, this appears complex.
 - c. Bids will be assessed on Treasury Green Book criteria, and also how bids meet the broader transformation programme of the Fire Authority. (Draft forms are attached as part of Appendix A).
 - d. The key dates are :-

Bid process closes April 2014
Successful Bids announced Autumn 2014
Funding paid April 2015
7. Members will recall that it is proposed (subject to the final guidance), to submit a bid based on the station mergers at Wirral and St. Helens.
8. A proposed response to the consultation is attached to this report at Appendix B.

Equality and Diversity Implications

9. None immediately arising from this report.

Staff Implications

10. None immediately arising from this report.

Legal Implications

11. None immediately arising from this report.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

12. £75m will be available nationally, that the Authority might bid against.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

13. None immediately arising from this report.

Contribution to Our Mission: *Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters*

14. Potentially, additional resources to support the mission.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS
