

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	AUTHORITY		
DATE:	11 FEBRUARY 2014	REPORT NO:	CFO/016/14
PRESENTING OFFICER	JANET HENSHAW, CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	JANET HENSHAW	REPORT AUTHOR:	HELENPEEK, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER
OFFICERS CONSULTED:			
TITLE OF REPORT:	OUTCOME OF MEMBERS SCRUTINY TRAINING AND FORWARD WORK PLAN		

APPENDICES:	APPENDIX 1: FEEDBACK FROM GROUPS DURING SCRUTINY TRAINING
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Purpose of Report

1. To request that Members consider the outcomes of the three workshop groups during the members post regulation scrutiny training which took place on 14th January 2014, with regard to setting a forward work plan for Performance and Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal year 2014/15.

Recommendation

2. That Members;
 - a. Consider the contents of this report, and identify areas of reform within the Authority, in relation to the issues faced and provisions of service.
 - b. In relation to the areas of reform identified by the Authority and the Strategic Direction of the Authority;
 - i. Consider feedback from the 3 working groups during Members Scrutiny Training (Appendix 1), to determine any topics to be taken from Members feedback for inclusion in a forward work plan for scrutiny during the municipal year of 2014/15;
 - ii. Determine any additional topics the Authority wish to be included in the forward work plan; and,
 - iii. Affirm a forward work plan to the next meeting of the Performance and Scrutiny Committee, to enable the prioritisation of the Plan to be considered for the Scrutiny work to be conducted during the municipal year of 2014/15
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Introduction and Background

3. Members of the Authority attended Scrutiny training on 14th January, and considered issues which the Authority faces, the need to reform certain areas of business and the importance of scrutinising reforms to allow transparency and informed decisions to be made, to deliver value for money services to the public of Merseyside.
4. Members were asked to consider the main areas for reform, and were offered areas to consider under the headings detailed in the table below:

Finance & Economy	Services Re-organisation	Community Partnership Work	Contractors & Major Projects
Meeting financial budget cuts in the coming financial years	Changes to services following reorganisation of departments/staff	Joint working with organisations share costs to deliver aims	How efficient have projects been executed with varying contractors?
Effects of the budget cuts already been met?	Same level of services delivered following previous re-organisation?	Social Enterprises etc...	How have issues with contractors or projects been identified and resolved?
Can all services still be delivered in view of the budget cuts?	Shared services or department mergers	Chargeable services available to the public	Have all the outcomes always been achieved?

5. Members were also asked to consider how they felt current scrutiny arrangements met the strategic challenges and direction of the Authority, before being divided into work groups to come up with a list to identify what they felt should be scrutinised in line with the Strategic Direction of the Authority, which is attached at Appendix 1.
6. It was agreed that it was important for the Authority to approve and set a forward working plan, to enable effective and structured scrutiny to take place.
7. Members are requested to consider the feedback from the working groups (Appendix 1) and identify specific areas for the Authority to consider for inclusion in a forward working plan to be adopted by the Performance and Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2014/15.

It is recommended that the forward working plan, once agreed by Authority, be submitted to the next meeting of Performance and Scrutiny Committee for their

consideration as to the information required and timeframe for such work to be carried out, and develop an order of priority to the forward work plan for reporting throughout the coming year.

Equality and Diversity Implications

8. There are no direct equality and diversity issues arising from this report, however, there may be implications to topics to be included in the forward working plan.
9. Equality and diversity issues in relation to any individual items of business on the plan will be considered and equality impact assessments completed where ever necessary, when that item is reported on.

Staff Implications

10. There are no direct staff implications in relation to this report, however there will be work required to produce informed reports, and possible staff implications dependent on the nature of the topics, which are to be included in the forward work plan for Performance and Scrutiny Committee.

Legal Implications

11. Although it is not a legal requirement for Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority to have a scrutiny committee, it is notable best practice and important that the Authority be transparent in relation to decisions made. The need for scrutiny is however a requirement of the Fire and Rescue Services National Framework 2012.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

12. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report, though it is anticipated that effective scrutiny, will have a financial impact be it a negative or positive.
13. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority is faced with significant financial challenges, therefore financial implications are always considered when reporting to and decisions made by the Authority.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

14. There are no direct risks arising from this report. Effective scrutiny will aid reduction of risks, and allow appropriate measures to be put in place to measure and address risk appropriately.

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

15. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority is committed to providing the most effective level of service achievable, to the public of Merseyside, to ensure

safety to the community and employees. Effective scrutiny assists the Authority to make appropriate decisions in order to achieve their mission.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS
