

OPERATIONAL RESPONSE FUNCTIONAL PLAN ACTION TRACKER 2024/25

Our Purpose:

HERE TO SERVE. HERE TO PROTECT.

HERE TO KEEP YOU SAFE.

Action Plan 2024/25	Action	Plan	2024	/25
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KEY DELIVERABLE	ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE EXPECTED OUTCOMES	OWNER	PROGRESS	PROJECTED COMPLETION DATE	BOARD REPORT DATE	BRAG STATUS
2.1 Enhance Appliance Availability & Efficiency – We will review current appliance ridership arrangement in order to enhance appliance availability and	2.1.1 Review degradation of appliances in line with staffing levels and impacts on productivity via internal stakeholders.		Q1 - Staffing guidance reviewed and appendices updated around degradation of appliances after consultation with Time and Resource Management (TRM). Improvements in productivity at end of FDP 23/24 noted around training, exercising and station-based performance to continue into Functional Development Plan (FDP) 24/25.	Qtr 1		
productivity			Q2 — Discretion still with Staffing Officer to make temporary staffing decisions including standbys in the event of sickness/absence. Working party set up with Response Officers and POD Consultation Manager from 9th Sept to discuss duty systems and impact			
	2.1.2 Embed and evaluate AURA dynamic cover tool to allocate resources effectively.	Group Manager Response	Q1 - The latest version of AURA (BETA_052024) was released on 1 st May 2024 to cover all fixes and improvements.	Qtr 2		
			The main feature change being changes to station boundaries for Aintree (Long Lane) opening and the closure of Croxteth and Aintree. Along with remedial work for media wall configuration changes. Project Team visited Fire Control on 7 th May to conduct initial testing for Media Wall changes to AURA. However, due to performance issues with Media Wall and the need for new software this will be re-arranged once the new capture cards are received (see 2.2.1). Q2 — AURA still in testing phase, since the introduction of new station boundaries (Aintree/Croxteth). Meeting scheduled with Development team for 31st July was postponed due to			

	operational activity. Still some performance issues in relation to the software on the media wall. Station Manager Control currently working on updating mobilising guidance to include the processes for the use of AURA. AURA operating notes completed and awaiting sign off through appropriate governance. Q3 - Meeting arranged for 18th December with ACFO Mottram to discuss AURA operating notes, following meeting and sign off we will decide on a 'Go Live' date.		
2.1.3 Explore alternative appliance ridership levels and mobilisation allocation in line with incident types.	Q1 - Deliverable will be explored as part of CRMP project utilising appliance availability data. Q2 - Working party set up with Response Officers and POD Consultation Manager from 9th Sept to discuss duty systems and impacts. Q3 - Appliance availability will be monitored over the next 6 months by Time and Resource Manangement following the agreement with Joint Secs for the sign off of Day Crewed and Hybrid duty systems. Exploration of the use of Watch Managers riding separate to appliances will be run towards the end of 2025.	Qtr 3	
2.1.4 Use the findings from 1.1/1.2/1.3 to embed new ways of working and enhance appliance availability and productivity.		Qtr 4	

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2.2 Enhanced Mobilisation – Embed new technologies within Fire Control to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of operational response to incidents.	2.2.1 Work with internal and external stakeholders to implement redesign of Fire Control to support use of new technologies.		Q1 - Redesign of Fire Control completed on 11 th March 2024. Some issues with the Media Wall and Telent are in dialogue with suppliers, Pure AV and Datapath regarding the performance of the videowall software and PC. They have advised that the Media Wall requires a software update and new capture cards. Currently the Media wall is displaying AURA, National Resilience and News channel.	Qtr 2		
			30/05/2024 – Telent have now received new capture cards and attended Fire Control to set them up on the Media Wall. However, it didn't support the other applications. EGT, drone footage, MAIT and Vision 5 Stateboard. Telent gone back to suppliers to discuss further options.			
		Station Manager Fire Control	Q2 – PureAV have acquired the additional hardware for the videowall and have asked to schedule some time in to install, configure and test. Pure AV attended Fire Control on 3 rd September and updated software and created new templates. Due to Bonfire period embargo, they are attending again mid-November to configure. (They will need full access to Fire Control therefore will carry out a business continuity exercise.)			
			Q3 - Pure AV attended Fire Control on 25 th November to update software and create 3 new templates. These now include AURA, National Resilience, Multi Agency Incident Transfer (MAIT), CallMy, Evacuation Guidance Template (EGT), Met Office and a link to access Drone footage. Fire Control to test EGT on media wall and an exercise planned for January 2025. Operating notes for Media Wall will be produced and circulated to Fire Control once all testing has taken place.			

2.2.2 Develop timeframe for implementation of Enhanced Mobilisation across operational assets and identify trial stations	•Enhanced Mobilisation will form part of a Vision 5 software release 5.36 •5.36 Development begins in June with a testing release date of October •Go Live Provisionally scheduled December 2024/January 2025 Meeting with FBU arranged for 19 th July. Q2 — Meeting held with Fire Brigades Union (FBU) on 19 th July, to provide an update, including the timeline for delivery and assurances around MFRS model compared to Manchester and Tyne and Wear and highlight the significant differences. Presentation delivered to Ops Board on 26 th August. Q3 - Vision release 5.36 (including Enhanced Mobilisation) will be available for testing from 18 th October. Note We can't move onto 5.36 until 5.35 has been configured onto Production system (Live) Weekly meeting held with Telent and NEC to keep testing schedule on track. 5.35 upgrade on Training system is confirmed for 06/01/25. Dates have been submitted to NEC for the remaining upgrades which should keep us on track to upgrade to 5.36 on production by April, providing that the upgrades and testing goes to plan and doesn't show any major issues that would prevent us from testing further. See below plan with dates;	Qtr 2	
2.2.3 Introduce Enhanced Mobilisation across all MFRS locations to improve	Q3 -	Qtr 3	

	efficiency and effectiveness of operational response 2.2.4 Complete Assurance in use of new technologies within Fire Control and through Operational Assurance utilising mobilisation data from Strategy and Performance			Qtr 4	
2.3 Specialist Asset and Cross Border Training – Evaluate the staffing and mobilisation arrangements of our specialist station assets to improve operational response to specific incident types and incorporate a structured training and exercising framework for cross border working arrangements.	2.3.1 Review and evaluate current Pre Determined Attendance (PDA) for Specialist Station Assets making suitable recommendations.	Group Manager Response	Q1 - Internal working group established with key stakeholder membership. Group has reviewed current Pre Determined Attendance (PDA) for specialist station assets, starting with the HMPU at St. Helens and Incident Command Unit (ICU) at Liverpool City. Possibly recommendations have been discussed, including: No change Complimentary crewing Wholetime crewing Other alternatives Marine Specialist capability at Wallasey and Crosby has been fully established. PDA recommendation includes: Increase from 3 to 4 pumps Ath appliance will be mobilised from Wallasey or Crosby and be dedicated Marine Specialist roles. MRSU will remain on Retained Recall. Seatruck Exercise taking place on 24th June will incorporate new PDA test.	Qtr 1	

	Q2 – Pre-Determined Attendance (PDA) recommendations discussed in working group and tested at three Seatruck exercises. Governance paper being completed, Service Instruction update draft in progress and Operations Board presentation to be delivered in September	
	Q3 - Operations Board Presentation delivered: Recommendation to change of Predetermined Attendance (PDA) and SOP: • Mobilise 3 Pumps – SOP outline Dedicated Roles • Mobilise Marine Specialist Appliance (M25P1) • Mobilise Search and Rescue Team (SRT) • Mobilise Combined Platform Ladder (CPL) • Mobilise Marine Rescue and Salvage Unit (MRSU) via Complimentary Crewing with M25P1 Further testing of new PDA recommendations requested. Explore Command and Control element. Utilisation of Seatruck Exercise and Cammel Lairds RAF ship	
2.3.2 Following evaluation, implement any recommendations for new or necessary changes to PDA/mobilising of Specialist Station Assess.	Q2 – Pre-determined attendance (PDA) recommendations discussed in working group and tested at three Seatruck exercises. Governance paper being completed, Service Instruction update draft in progress and Operations Board presentation to be delivered in September.	2
	Q3 - Operations Board Presentation delivered: Recommendation to change of PDA and SOP: • Mobilise 3 Pumps – SOP outline Dedicated Roles • Mobilise Marine Specialist Appliance (M25P1)	

2.3.3 Expand knowledge & understanding of cross border working practices via the regional cross border group and collate/share learning across our Service.	 Mobilise SRT Mobilise CPL Mobilise MRSU via Complimentary Crewing with M25P1 Further testing of new PDA recommendations requested. Explore Command and Control element. Utilisation of Seatruck Exercise and Cammel Lairds RAF ship. Q3 Information gathered on Portal on working practices and learning to be captured from cross border training and exercising. Information to be shared at North West Operational Assurance meeting. 	Qtr 3	
2.3.4 Develop structured training and exercising framework with cross border services to evaluate knowledge & understanding and improve collaboration.	 March 19th: Communication Alignment Correspondence was dispatched to all station managers overseeing cross-border stations. The communication aimed to update them with the key deliverables from the functional plan 24-25. April 22nd: Strategy Meeting A face-to-face meeting was conducted with the presence of cross-border station managers. The agenda covered a range of topics including operational strategies, shared challenges, and potential solutions to enhance cross-border cooperation. June 10th: Performance Review/Update Station managers received performance data from the previous year. This data provided 	Qtr 3	

2.4 One Team – We will support Culture and Transformation in accordance with the outcomes of the most recent HMI report and	2.4.1 Evaluate Positive Action Station Performance Output 2023/24 delivered via Off Station Recruitment Days, Have a Go Days and	Group Manager Response	Q1 - Evaluation of 2023/24 figures completed. Evaluation highlighted the following: • Station Open Days - All complete bar station 21 Bromborough (due to pending refurb) Positive Action Recruitment Events	Qtr 1	
			 In response to feedback, we've established a quick link on all station portal pages to enhance user-friendliness when accessing cross-border information. This improvement aims to streamline the process and provide a more efficient experience for users. Q2 – Aug 29: 6 Monthly Performance/Update Station Managers have received their sixmonthly performance data, including a detailed breakdown of their station's activities and achievements. Over the last six months, a number of stations, in collaboration with cross-border stations, has completed nine training sessions with our cross-border colleagues. Please see the breakdown below:		

enhance knowledge,	Community Station Open	Completed events - 24.	
understanding and	Days	Total Registered Details Collected at these	
application for		Events - 221.	
station-based staff.		 Protected Characteristics Collected 36%. 	
		District Have a Go Days:	
		• 5 completed.	
		• 74 Attendees.	
		32% of which were Protected	
		Characteristics	
		Station Open Days	
		 Completed – 21 (no Bromborough due to 	
		refurbish)	
		Positive results realised in relation to station	
		outputs/performance.	
		24% increase in applicants compared to 2023	
		 243 extra candidates compared to 2023 43% increase in female applicants compared 	
		to 2023	
		47 extra female applicants compared to	
		2023	
		Highest proportion of female candidates in	
		last 4 processes	
		8.5% increase in non-white British/Irish	
		compared to 2023	
		Q2	
		Station Open Days - 5 Station Open Days	
		Completed inline with the quarterly time frames.	
		Open days temporarily paused due to civil	
		disturbance from July. To be reviewed within September. Aintree Fire Station/TDA Open Day to	
		take place on 24th September.	
		Positive Action Recruitment Events	

	 Completed events - 22. Total Registered details collected at these Events - 181. Protected characteristics collected 45%, which is a 9% increase from last year. District Have a Go Days: 5 completed. 54 Attendees. 48% of which were Protected Characteristics, a 16% increase from last years figures. 	
2.4.2 Embed significant changes and learning from evaluation of Positive Action Station Performance Output 2023/24.	Q1 - Yearly quarterly planner has been produced and distributed to Stations to ease Appliance availability. To be uploaded on Portal. Standardised workflow documents have been produced. Service Instruction (SI) and Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be finalised, this will include RA procedure. Community Impact Fund monies to be utilised as temp budget for Station Open Days. Ops Briefing Paper to be produced to ask for additional funds 2025/26. Q2 — All Positive Action Recruitment Days completed, and fed into five successful District Have a Go Days. Figures and contact details sent to Recruitment. Operational Response have offered to run ad hoc District Have a Go Days when required on request of Recruitment/POD based on advert release. Q3 - Presentation being developed to deliver as hand over to new Cultural Leadership staff with a	

	view for POD to take full ownership of the Positive Action events with support from Operational Response.	
	Station Open Days have paused and are being reviewed with aim to change these to one per district per station planning year. New legislation regarding security to be considered.	
2.4.3 Support development of Culture and Transformation strategy in line with review of the outcomes of the most recent HMI report.	Q1 - Operational Crews have been collecting details of local businesses, schools, charities, sports centres, etc whilst engaged in promoting their Positive Action Community Events. View to utilise contacts to build stronger relationships within community through distribution lists. Q2 - Open days temporarily paused due to civil disturbance from July. Misconduct report released from HMI – need to consider how/if to devolve to staff. Meeting with Cultural Advisor to enhance Positive Action Recruitment to discuss ideas: Provide transport from stations to Have a Go Day Venues Referrals to identified help within districts for applicants for support in application completion, i.e. access to computers, etc. Introduction of buddy systems	Qtr 3
	Ask a Fire Fighter open day Q3 - Ops Response to continue to support POD with sultural transformation. Just Cultura procedure to be	
	cultural transformation. Just Culture procedure to be delivered to Operational Crews by home Station Manager.	

	ork with People and			0.4	
ot appliances – We Organisa			Q1 - Work has been on-going to keep an up to date	Q1	
	ational Development		list of the current 224 retained contract holders.		
1	identify retained		Whilst the CRMP has not started until July then work		
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	holders and locations		will continue to keep the list up to date as required.		
	he Service				
	ork with internal		Q1 - Dialogue between the rep bodies has begun	Q2	
stakeho	lders to carry out		and meetings are scheduled to progress the		
analysis	on impacts of		response actions. Workshops have been updated on		
increasir	ng appliance fleet to		the need for additional appliances. Work continues		
34.			on identifying the new specialist vehicles for the 2		
			stations where the 33 rd and 34 th appliance will be		
			housed.		
			Q2 – Old Swan and Toxteth identified as stations for		
			housing 33 rd and 34 th appliance. Work between		
			Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) lead and		
			POD to continue looking at those who will remain at		
			stations or options for moves.		
			stations of options for moves.		
	CRI	MP Group	Q3 - It has been approved that station Toxteth and		
	N	⁄lanager	Old Swan will have the 33 rd and 34 th appliance based		
			at these locations. Work has been on-going with		
			relevant stakeholders including Time and Resource		
			Management, workshops, Human Resources and		
			operational equipment.		
25206	part of fire cover		Q1 - Stations 15 and 16 have been highlighted as the	Q3	
	-			ŲЗ	
	explore possible		possible locations for the 2 retained appliances to		
	s for appliances and		be housed.		
staffing (O1 A presentation has been directed and array and	Q3	
	esent report to board		Q1 - A presentation has been drafted and presented	Ų3	
	dings and timescales		to the Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO) who has		
or imple	mentation.		approved. Presentation will be shared with the		
			response AM with a view to taking to next Ops		
			Board		
			Q2 – Presentation delivered to Operations Board and		
			this will continue to Q3		

			Q3 - Updates have been provided to Principal Officers and Operations board. Full update will be given in Ops Board in the New Year.		
2.6 Project Manage CRMP Objectives – We will utilise the response Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) planning Manager to develop and progress a suite of identified projects in line with the 2024/27 CRMP.	2.6.1 CRMP Planning Group Manager (GM) to compile Projection Initiation Documents (PIDs) and associated paperwork for Operational Response CRMP projects.		Q1 - Project Initiation Documents (PIDs) have been submitted to Strategy and Performance. They will be updated during the course of the year. Q2 - Risktec due into Service in September to review IRMP 2021-24 progress to evaluate and educate and provide advice for managing CRMP 2024-27. Q3 - Work will commence on the completion of CRMP documents, this will be the introduction of the logic model format.	Q1	
	2.6.2 CRMP Planning GM to formalise from PIDs each CRMP Operational Response project, establishing roles and responsibilities.	CRMP Group Manager	Q1 - Work continues to look at the next steps for the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) response actions. Meetings are planned with Rep Bodies to progress with view to running pilots for each project.	Q2	
			Q2 – Awaiting decision from Fire Authority to approve CRMP 2024-27 to allocate work.		
			Q3 — Project Initiation Documents and logic model will be update over the coming months.		
	2.6.3 CRMP Planning GM to oversee effective management of Operational Response CRMP Projects.		Q1 - Work continues to look at the next steps for the CRMP response actions. Meetings are planned with Rep Bodies to progress with view to running pilots for each project.	Q3	

	2.6.4 CRMP Planning GM to provide a quarterly progress overview and end of year overview to the Operations Board.		Q2 – Awaiting decision from Fire Authority to approve CRMP 2024-27 to allocate work. Q3 - The introduction of the 33 rd and 34 th appliance will be in place for April 2025. Work on maximising appliance availability will be reviewed and will be monitored over the next 6 months. Q1 - Update was given at Ops Board on 23/05/24. Further updates will be provided as requested. Q2 - Updates provide as requested. Q3 - Updates are being provided periodically to senior management as well as updates to ops board.	Q4	
2.7 Reduce Exposure - We will enhance our procedures to provide the most current information, instruction, and training for reducing exposure to Firefighter contamination from toxic fire effluents.	2.7.1 Embed the dedicated Station Manager B (SMB) within the Firefighter Contaminants project supporting our regional commitment to deliver against the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) nine key areas. 2.7.2 Explore new equipment, practices and procedures as informed by the outcomes of	Group Manager Health and Safety	Q1 - SM (Station Manager) role impacted by retirement of current SM and non-reinstatement of former SM. Liaison with People and Organisational Development (POD) to run temporary appointment process for SMD to fulfil role (13 th June) Q2 - Station Manager now embedded as project lead. Complete. Q1 - Learning gathered from regional group has informed changes to: Issue of additional flash hoods for stations.	Q1 Q2	
	the regional group and the local Contaminants working group.		Helmets on trial at Kensington for non- structural incidents to reduce frequency of wear.		

	Enhanced E-Learning around kit care including senior officers. Station Zoning exercise completed for all stations — plans now drawn up. Awaiting research and development exercise via Estates to provide signage/placards denoting zones. Service to be aligned to RAG principles in conjunction with clean at scene. External testing for efficacy of flash hoods awaiting results. Disrobe/Decon zone at TDA BA has been requested — to be discussed with Estates. Q2 — Flash hoods issued to stations. Helmet trial concluded and being considered by Operational Equipment. E-Learning upgraded and station zoning now in progress. Service Instruction to be placed in consultation Sep 24 Q3 - Station zoning ongoing. Q3 audit contains reducing exposure to contaminants section with support sheet for SMs to promote consistency amongst crews and to assess understanding of zoning/reducing exposure. Health and Safety audit now includes reducing exposure content and to be completed monthly by Station Managers, commenced 1ª January. Discussions about washing machines provided to stations still under discussion regionally. Invitation received from Northern Ireland Fire Service to demonstration in January.		
2.7.3 Implement best practice through amendment of policy and procedures in tandem with associated stakeholder parties.	Q1 - Service Instruction in version 1.4 to be reviewed once station zoning complete – to be presented for consult once achieved. Continued work against Training and Competence as part of the regional workstream. MFRS responsible	Q3	

			for aligning training packages to apprenticeship standards. Awaiting phase 2 report and National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) Toolkit. Informed of April 2025 Health and Safety Executive (HSE) inspections – information requested from HSE. Q2 — Service Instruction at v1.5 and placed in consultation from September 2024. Continuing to develop North West Training and Competence package with regional group. Awaiting phase 2 report. Q3 — Service Instruction completed and agreed through Joint Secretary's meetings/Fire Brigades Union. Publish date around late December. Regional training package to be reviewed December		
	2.7.4 Implement and introduce training, equipment, information, and instruction in relation to protection from contaminants. Ensure work is underway/completed in respect of capital assets (fire stations/TDA).		Q1 - Service Instruction in version 1.4 to be reviewed once station zoning complete – to be presented for consult once achieved. E-Learning now updated to reflect kit care – further package will be required for station zoning. Q2 – Service Instruction v1.5 sent for consultation September 2024. E – Learning update complete and station zoning in progress Q3 – Service Instruction completed and agreed through Joint Secs/FBU. Publish date around late December. Regional training package to be reviewed December.	Q3	
2.8 Oshens System – Explore and utilise various applications on the Health and	2.8.1 Summarise feedback from users and stakeholders associated with the current OSHENs system	Group Manager Health and Safety	Q1 - Feedback from internal stakeholders and users has identified that the OSHENs system offers limited capability against other market competitors. Meeting held with Ideagen to discuss ownership of	Q1	

Safety market to improve or replace the current Health and Safety recording system.	2.8.2 Conduct a horizon scanning exercise across other FRS and comparable industry to seek best solutions. Consider wider implication of best fit for preparation to align to ISO 45001.	editing rights, ability to make changes, end of contract clauses and general in-service care. Q1 - Aligned considerations of potential systems to LMS project. GMFRS' MOC system appears to reflect the needs of MFRS. Contacted Natasha Brayne GMFRS for demo/information. Q2 - Requested ICT/System Support to conduct from an IT perspective. Visit to Manchester to be completed September-October.	Q2	
		Q3 - Manchester visit completed and findings will be considered. Meetings set with five parties. Evotix meeting arranged for January. Findings will be considered and fed back in Q4 updates.		
	2.8.3 Undertake financial implications exercise and consider practicalities of retraining the workforce. Plan for transfer of existing data and information in respect of retention periods.	Q1 - Organisational understanding that £50k is reserved for the implementation of a new system (c/o Head of Data and echnology) Q2 - Visit to Manchester to be completed September-October. Q3 - Visit to GMCFRS completed and MOC system	Q3	
		reviewed. Awaiting outcomes and feedback from meetings with other parties in relation to other available software systems before financial implications and training requirements are considered. Confirmation received of the securing of capital to assist with the procurement of any new system.		
	2.8.4 Seek to obtain/purchase a new system with governance from the respective boards and affected parties.	Q3 – Not yet started.	Q4	

2.9 Subsurface	2.9.1 Carry out a SWOT		Q1 - Station Manager continues to work on the	Q1	
incidents – Explore the expansion of our Operational Response to subsurface incidents and other life risk water related incidents.	analysis for options explored in methods of conducting subsurface rescue.		SWOT analysis and updates will be provided when they are required. Q2 — Completed by Group Manager Operational Planning. Options presented to ACFO with financial considerations. Comparison to sub-surface drone considered as part of presentation.		
	2.9.2 Generate a comprehensive cost analysis and training competency matrix for submission to the Operations Board regarding the options outlined in section 9.1	Group Manager	Q1 - A working group has been established and actions for different departments have been given for the costings to be looked at. Update will be provided to Ops Board once this is in place. Q2 - This work is on-going. Q3 - Whilst the water trial is in place there will be a show and tell session at Carr Mill dam in the New Year, this will involve a number of stakeholders from across the Service	Q2	
	2.9.3 Using the research and data analysis, present an Operations board paper to advance the exploration of the subsurface rescue team.		Q1 - This work is on-going and an update on the costs and workings of the team will be provided so a decision can be made on progress of this initiative. Q2 - This work is on-going.	Q3	
			Q3 - This work remains on-going. Upon on completion of the water trail and recent investment and demonstrations of new water equipment, all data will be used to produce a report and present findings, with relevant recommendations.		

BRAG Descriptor								
Action completed	Action is unlikely to be delivered within the	Action may not be delivered by the	Action will be delivered by the designated	Action not yet started				
Action completed	current functional delivery plan	designated deadline within the functional	deadline within the functional plan					
		plan						

STATUS SUMMARY – 31.12.24				
Total Number of Workstreams	34 (100%)			
Action completed	14 (41%)			
Action is unlikely to be delivered within the current functional delivery plan	0 (0%)			
Action may not be delivered by the designated deadline within the functional plan	4 (12%)			
Action will be delivered by the designated deadline within the functional plan	12 (35%)			
Action not yet started	4 (12%)			