

# *FINANCE & PROCUREMENT*

## **FUNCTIONAL PLAN**

### **ACTION TRACKER 2025/26**

#### **Our Purpose:**

HERE TO SERVE. HERE TO PROTECT.

HERE TO KEEP YOU SAFE.

## Action Plan 2025/26

KEY DELIVERABLE	ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE EXPECTED OUTCOMES	CONTRIBUTION TO PURPOSE/AIMS. Responsible Officer	PROGRESS	Does this contribute to CRMP, HMI or Fire Standards Implementation actions (please state which)?	TARGET DATE	BOARD REPORT DATE	BRAG STATUS
<b>1.To liaise with the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Local Pension Partnership Administration (LPPA) key contacts to ensure all members impacted by the public pension age discrimination cases are resolved and the “remedy” is agreed by the deadlines set out by the Home Office.</b>	1.1.1 MFRS staff continue to liaise with and provide all the necessary information to therefore enable the LPPA to ensure all “remedy” cases are resolved as per the Home Office deadlines.	Director of Finance & Procurement / Head of Finance	<p><b>Q1 Update</b></p> <p>The Local Pensions Partnership Administration (LPPA) continue to pay all MFRS retirees’ commutations within the SLA guidelines of 10 working days of retirement. MFRS staff worked with LPPA staff during Q1 to ensure all data requirements were met relating to the ‘remedy’.</p> <p>LPPA have confirmed that there will be a slight delay to the original timeline for payment of adjusted benefits whilst they work through some system developments with the application provider. LPPA are working closely with their provider to process these payments as quickly as possible. The timescale for payments will be September – November 2025. LPPA will continue to keep members updated. Members will receive a communication from the LPPA to provide reassurance that existing pensions will continue to be paid as normal and that any outstanding payments and interest on their pension and lump sum arrears will be calculated and included up to the date when payment is made.</p> <p>MFRS staff are working with the LPPA to ensure members receive their updated</p>	No – not directly	April 2025 – March 2026		

			pensions documentation as soon as reasonably practicable.				

<p><b>2.The Government Pension’s Dashboard scheme is an initiative to deliver digital services (Apps / Websites) which will enable savers to be able to view their pension information in one place. MFRS will need to ensure all data is cleansed and up to date for all members of its pension schemes to enable the Firefighter pension administrator (LPPA) and Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF) to deliver this facility.</b></p>	<p>2.1.1 Ensure all applicable data which is required for the eco-system to be established ahead of the dashboard implementation is provided to the LPPA and MPF respectively for Grey and Green book members.</p>	<p>Director of Finance &amp; Procurement / Head of Finance</p>	<p><b>Q1 Update</b>  The Pensions Dashboard Programme is a Government initiative which will allow members to access information from all pension providers (including the state pension) in one place, through a secure on-line platform.</p> <p>MFRS have provided all pension scheme connection codes to the Local Pension Partnership Administration (LPPA) ahead of the 30<sup>th</sup> of June deadline.</p> <p>A specific item relating to the Pensions Dashboard programme is included on the MFRS Pensions Board to ensure monitoring and compliance with the requirements and deadline.</p> <p>MFRS Finance staff attend regular progress sessions arranged by the LPPA. The current pensions dashboard is RAG rated as green by the LPPA and the initial connection deadline of the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2025 is expected to be delivered.</p>	<p>No – not directly</p>	<p>October 2025 – March 2026</p>		
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<p><b>3. Carry out an upgrade to the financial management information application from the current 5.5 version to the latest 6.5 version.</b></p>	<p>3.1.1 To work with the finance application provider (One Advanced) to carry out the upgrade to the latest version as efficiently and effectively as possible with minimal disruption to users of the application.</p>	<p>Director of Finance &amp; Procurement / Head of Finance / FIMA Manager</p>	<p><b>Q1 Update</b>            Since April 2025, a number of demonstration sessions have been held with staff from the application provider (One Advanced) and key users in MFRS.</p> <p>A cost / benefit analysis decision will be required in September to determine if the service deems it to be beneficial at this time to move to the new version of the application (called Financials). Once a decision has been made, the service will then progress to either the new Financials platform or revert to carrying out the upgrade to version 6.5 of the current E-Financials version of the application.</p>	<p>No – not directly</p>	<p>April 2025 – March 2026</p>		
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4.Following the move to a new HR & Payroll Human Capital Management (HCM) application during 2024/25, it is now key to ensure the suite of management reports are built within the application these include monthly pension reports required for internal and external reporting purposes.	4.1.1 To assess the current suite of reports and then develop suitable management reports from RRS to meet our internal and external reporting requirements.	Director of Finance & Procurement / Head of Finance	<b>Q1 Update</b> Following the move to the new HR and Payroll application during 2024/25, the Finance team have been working with the application provider to build and develop suitable pensions, payroll and expense reports. In liaising with application provider, two key pension reports required for both Grey and Green book pension schemes have now been developed and have proved to be essential in the ensuring statutory returns required for the Local Pensions Partnership Administration (LPPA) and Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF) have been completed.  The team are now in the process of assessing if any other management reports would be required in the second half 2025/26.	No – not directly	April 2025 – March 2026			
5.Using the experience gained during 2024/25 from the new electronic FS30 overtime claim forms, evaluate the benefits of further payroll automation during 2025/26 (for	5.1.1 Evaluate the learning from the new electronic FS30 overtime claim forms with a view to assessing the requirement to rollout further automation of other payroll related forms.	Director of Finance & Procurement / Head of Finance	<b>Q1 Update</b> Following the introduction of the electronic overtime claims process delivered in 2024/25, the finance team are now reviewing other opportunities for further automation of payroll processes. These will be carried out during the second half of the financial year and will include potential reviews of the new starter form checklist, retained overtime payments and detached duty overtime payments.	No – not directly	April 2025 – March 2026			

example - New starter checklist / other claim forms).							
<b>6. Provide a review of MFRS Statement of Accounts, with the aim to improve the format and layout of the statements (as far as possible whilst ensuring they accord with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK).</b>	6.1.1 To carry out a review of the MFRS Statement of Accounts to ensure the format and layout are as user friendly as possible (as far as possible given they must meet the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK). The accounting team will conduct a sample review of other FRA's Statement of Accounts during 2025/26 to assess if any improvements can be made.	Director of Finance & Procurement / Head of Finance / Financial Accountant	<b>Q1 Update</b> During Q1, key members within the Accounting Team have completed the draft Statement of Accounts as per the statutory deadline of the 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2025.  The team have reviewed the layout of the accounts and made them as user friendly as possible, whilst ensuring that they still comply with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK. The team conducted a sample review of other Fire Authority Statements of Accounts to inform style and format changes to the MFRS accounts production.  In addition, the team have also streamlined a number of working papers which will be provided to the external auditors (Forvis Mazars) as part of the external audit process for the Authority's Statement of Accounts.	No – not directly	April 2025 – March 2026		
<b>7. The Procurement team will work to transition to the new Procurement</b>	7.7.1 Implement and Embed new Contract Standing Orders.	Head of Procurement	<b>Q1 Update</b> The financial threshold has been amended in the finance application and in the exemptions procedure to align with the new Contract Standing Orders. An alerting message has been	No – not directly	April 2025 – March 2026		

Act which went live in February 2025 whilst maintaining contracts as awarded under previous legislation.	7.7.2Review New Contract Standing Orders.		added in the finance application such that when expenditure approaches the threshold, the application generates a warning to the procurement mailbox.				
8.Commence procurement activity for the replacement Long Term Capability Maintenance contract.	8.8.1Recruit and embed Staff and Start Exit and Transition Phase.  8.8.2Complete exit and Transition Phase.  8.8.3Start Design and Development Phase	Head of Procurement	<b>Q1 Update</b> Job Profile and Person Specification has been written for the new post of Procurement Lead. The Job Profile has undergone its first iteration of Job Evaluation.	No – not directly	April 2025 – May 2025   September 2025   October 2025		

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



STATUS SUMMARY – 30.6.25	
Total Number of Workstreams	8 (100%)
Action completed	1 (12%)
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	0 (0%)
Action will be delivered by the designated deadline within the functional plan	7 (88%)
Action not yet started	0 (0%)

Please select from options