

<b>MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY</b>			
<b>MEETING OF THE:</b>	<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE</b>		
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>27 MARCH 2014</b>	<b>REPORT NO:</b>	<b>CFO/030/14</b>
<b>PRESENTING OFFICER</b>	<b>DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER PHIL GARRIGAN</b>		
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	<b>AREA MANAGER MYLES PLATT</b>	<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	<b>MYLES PLATT</b>
<b>OFFICERS CONSULTED:</b>	<b>GROUP MANAGER KEEN. STATION MANAGER ANDY GROOM. WATCH MANAGER BILL SHEPHERD</b>		
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>NATIONAL SPRINKLER WEEK 2014</b>		

<b>APPENDICES:</b>	
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### **Purpose of Report**

1. To inform Members of the activities undertaken on Merseyside in support of the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) National Sprinkler Week.

### **Recommendation**

2. That Members note the positive outcomes from National Sprinkler week, in particular the Sprinkler Symposium and the next steps for working with stakeholders to retrofit sprinkler systems in purpose built blocks of flats.

### **Introduction and Background**

3. The CFOA Fire Sprinkler Week 2014 (3<sup>rd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2014) was the inaugural event of a 3 year campaign with 3 key objectives;
  - 3.1 Spread more widely an awareness of sprinkler facts.
  - 3.2 Promote greater understanding and acceptance across cross sector stakeholders.
  - 3.3 Encourage the support and promotion of sprinklers in building design and renovation.
4. The initiative received full support from the sprinkler community (BSA, BAFSA, and NFSN), and the Local Government Association (LGA) with 42 Fire & Rescue Authorities participating.
5. To promote Sprinkler Week, MFRA's Protection Department, in liaison with Corporate Communications, produced a series of media statements, news

briefs and promotional material to emphasise the benefits of fire suppression and in order to dispel any myths related to their use.

6. The main focus for the campaign in Merseyside was the Sprinkler Symposium held at the TDA on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

### **Sprinkler Symposium**

7. Over 40 attendees from Registered Housing Providers, Local Authorities, Building Control Officers and Fire Authority Members attended.
8. The event was championed by the Chair of the Authority Dave Hanratty' and Deputy Chief Fire Officer Phil Garrigan.
9. The symposium was designed and aligned to the CFOA objectives (paragraph 3), to generate interest around the use and application of sprinklers and in order to create a momentum for change, with the Authority committing to provide £200,000 match funding towards the installation of sprinklers and the embedding of fire risk management principles in residential premises in order to protect the occupants and the fire fighters who respond to fires in such premises. Three presentations and a practical demonstration were provided to the attendees.
10. Keynote presentations were delivered on the following themes;
  - 10.1 **The Imperative for Change.** This targeted dispelling the myths of sprinklers and the fire deaths / injuries & property damage that could be prevented through the provision of sprinklers.
  - 10.2 **Retro-Fitting Sprinklers.** Case studies were provided on successes' of fitting sprinklers in partnership with a wide variety of housing sectors.
  - 10.3 **The Financial Case for Sprinklers.** Providing key facts on the cost effectiveness of sprinklers and how housing providers can get involved in the Authorities funding commitment.

### **Practical Demonstration of the Effectiveness of Sprinklers**

11. To present a more persuasive case to the attendees a practical demonstration was arranged to highlight (far more than a PowerPoint presentation could ever achieve) how sprinklers can save lives and protect property.
12. Two practical demonstration units were constructed in situ at the TDA by members of the Search and Rescue Team, constructed from materials provided free of charge by local businesses and community groups. One unit was fitted with a sprinkler system provided by a sprinkler installation company who have had previous experience of working with Local Authorities.
13. The display graphically illustrated the development of 2 simultaneously set fires, in 2 typical living rooms, constructed to normal building standards with regular furniture and furnishings contained within. The only difference being that one unit was fitted with sprinklers and the other was not.
14. The demonstration provided on the day could not have been any more powerful in emphasising the effectiveness of sprinklers in controlling and suppressing a developing fire.

15. The fire in the sprinklered unit was controlled by a single sprinkler head that operated after around 1 minute 23 seconds with very little damage, whereas the conditions in the other unit were un-survivable as the fire fully developed after 3 minutes and 30 seconds.

### **Media / Press Coverage**

16. Articles were published in the press leading up to the symposium. One featured a fire in the Theatre Royal in St Helens that was contained with minimal damage by one sprinkler head and no adverse impact on the business.
17. The DCFO and Chair of the Authority conducted a number of interviews for the media on the day of the symposium.
18. A primary news feature from Granada Reports with footage from the demonstration and an interview provided by DCFO Garrigan was shown in their early evening and late news bulletins.

### **Next Steps - Working with Housing Providers to Install Sprinklers**

19. The symposium generated a great deal of cross-sector interest and support for sprinklers. To build on this momentum members of the Protection team are engaging with Housing Associations to consider working in partnership with MFRA. The event has already stimulated interest from the following organisations;
  - Liverpool Mutual Homes.
  - Knowsley Housing Trust.
  - Concentric Lettings.
  - Magenta Housing.
20. The Protection team have created a simple system giving organisations the necessary information to apply for match funding.
22. When all formal applications for match funding have been received the identification of the most suitable premises for the retro-fitting of sprinklers will be achieved through a risk profiling..
23. Full consultation with residents (as required) will be carried out before, during and after the installation process.

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### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

24. None as a result of the sprinkler week arrangements. An Equalities Impact Assessment will be conducted as part of the fire risk management project.

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### **Staff Implications**

25. None arising directly as a result of the sprinkler week arrangements however there will be resource implications for the management of the Fire Risk Management project going forward.

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## **Legal Implications**

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26. The Sprinkler project team will liaise closely with the Legal Department and will ensure that relevant contractual arrangements are in place before any sprinklers are fitted.

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

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27. The Fire Risk Management project has £200,000 set aside from the reserves for Firefighter Safety. See CFO/135/13.

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

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28. The risk to firefighters and residents will be the primary consideration in selecting the premises that will be involved in the project.

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

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29. The fitting of sprinklers actively contributes to saving lives and protecting property. This initiative is particularly effective in relation to the safety of our fire fighters.

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## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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**CFO/135/13** Fire Risk Management in Residential Premises.

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## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

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<b>CFOA</b>	CHIEF FIRE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
<b>BSA</b>	BRITISH SPRINKLER ASSOCIATION
<b>BAFSA</b>	BRITISH AUTOMATED FIRE SUPPRESSION ASSOCIATION
<b>NFSN</b>	NATIONAL FIRE SPRINKLER NETWORK
<b>MOU</b>	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
<b>TDA</b>	TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY
<b>MFRS</b>	MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
<b>MFRA</b>	MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
<b>LGA</b>	LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

**DCFO**

DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER