

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE		
DATE:	11 DECEMBER 2025	REPORT NO:	CFO/28/2526
PRESENTING OFFICER	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, NICK SEARLE		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE, DEB APPLETON	REPORT AUTHOR:	STATION MANAGER, ROB MAY
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT)		
TITLE OF REPORT:	STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE 2024/2025		

APPENDICES:	APPENDIX A: DRAFT STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE 2024/25
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Purpose of Report

1. To request that Members consider and approve Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority's ('the Authority') Statement of Assurance 2024/25 for publication on the Authority website.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that Members;
 - a) note the information contained within this report;
 - b) approve the Authority's draft Statement of Assurance 2024/25; and
 - c) if approved, the Statement of Assurance 2024/25, be signed by the Chair of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority and the Chief Fire Officer.

Introduction and Background

3. The Fire and Rescue Service National Framework published in 2012 and revised in 2018 sets out a requirement for Fire and Rescue Authorities to publish an annual Statement of Assurance. It says:

'Fire and rescue authorities must provide annual assurance to their community and to Government on financial, governance and operational matters.'

4. The National Framework goes on to say that the statement should outline the way in which the Authority and its Fire and Rescue Service has had regard – in the period covered by the document (April 2024 to March 2025) – to the National Framework, the Community Risk Management Plan (previously Integrated Risk Management Plan) and to any strategic plans prepared by the Authority for that period.
5. Where Fire and Rescue Authorities have already set out relevant information that is clear, accessible and user-friendly within existing documents, they may wish to include extracts, or links to these documents within their statement of assurance.
6. The Authority's Statement of Assurance April 2024 to March 2025 has been prepared in a way that does not substantially duplicate existing plans, reports and other documents, but instead includes links to existing documents held on the Authority's website, or in some cases to documents held by other organisations or within Governmental departments.

Equality and Diversity Implications

7. Accessibility has been considered and although the Statement is designed to be read as an electronic document with links to other documents and information, hard copies of documents will be provided on request.

Staff Implications

8. There are no staff implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

9. The publication of a Statement of Assurance is a requirement of the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework, which is a statutory requirement under the provisions of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 section 21.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

10. There are no financial implications arising from this report. The Statement gives details on financial performance and future challenges.

Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

11. There are no risk management or health and safety implications arising from this report.

Environmental Implications

12. There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Contribution to Our Vision: *To be the best Fire & Rescue Service in the UK.*

Our Purpose: *Here to serve, Here to protect, Here to keep you safe.*

13. Producing the Statement will ensure that the Authority complies with legal requirements but will also provide accessible information to any stakeholders who wish to learn more about the Authority.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

CFO/72/24 Statement of Assurance 2023/24

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

NONE