

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	SCRUTINY COMMITTEE		
DATE:	10 APRIL 2025	REPORT NO:	CFO/96/25
PRESENTING OFFICER	DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, DAVE MOTTRAM		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	AREA MANAGER, PAUL MURPHY	REPORT AUTHOR:	GROUP MANAGER, CHRIS BARRETT
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM		
TITLE OF REPORT:	MFRS' OPERATIONAL RESPONSE TO FLOOD		
APPENDICES:	NONE		

Purpose of Report

1. To advise Members how Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service (MFRS) responds and trains for flood events.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that Members;
 - a) note the Flood capability in MFRS, as contained within Flood presentation; and
 - b) apply scrutiny to the approach adopted.

Introduction and Background

3. The Authority's Integrated Risk Management Plan 2021/24 included an action to expand on a capability specialised to respond to flood and water rescue locally and nationally. The action included providing the skills, knowledge and equipment to our firefighters to enable them to effectively deal with this type of incident.
4. The National Security Risk Assessment is produced by the Cabinet Office in the United Kingdom. This identified Flood as an environmental hazard within the National Risk Register (2023). This is a key document which is reviewed within planning cycles to ensure MFRS has the capability to respond effectively to identified risk.
5. MFRS' aim is to:
 - a) prepare our communities to be safer from the effects of flooding;

- b) respond effectively to floods; and
 - c) provide assistance to promote recovery from the environmental effects of floods.
- 6. The locations chosen to base the specialism are Aintree and Kirkdale Fire Stations.
 - 7. The flood capability is fully operationally available.
 - 8. A presentation on the flood specialist capability will accompany this report at the meeting.

Equality and Diversity Implications

- 9. There are no implications arising out of this report. E&D considerations have been made, but as the activity in question is not a new role, no implications were identified (it is a development based on enhancing knowledge and skills of existing firefighters who already perform the activity of responding to floods and water incidents).

Staff Implications

- 10. The staff at the selected locations have been widely consulted with over defining the role, training, specifying equipment and vehicles. This has included in person visits and equipment trials.
- 11. The role is not a departure from routine activity associated with the role of a firefighter or manager. The skills, knowledge and equipment allow more tactical options to be used in flood conditions.
- 12. Initial training has already been provided but to embed continuity of the specialism, further training is required annually to maintain CPD in line with DEFRA Flood Concept of Operations.
- 13. The production of the station plans at these locations reflects the implications of the flood capability.

Legal Implications

- 14. There is a legal obligation under the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 for the provision of such information, instruction, training and supervision as is necessary to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety at work of his employees.
- 15. The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 Part 2 Section 9 states that each Fire and Rescue Authority should make arrangements for dealing with calls for help and for summoning personnel.

16. The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 Section 2 details our duty to plan for emergencies.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

17. There are no financial implications resulting from this report. All costs are being met from within existing budgets.

Risk Management and Health & Implications

18. Initial training has been undertaken and ongoing training and exercising is planned.
19. Appropriate tools and equipment have been sourced, to mitigate the risks associated with flood response.

Environmental Implications

20. The environmental implications will be explained at the Committee during the presentation.

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.*

21. This contributes to the vision to be the best Fire & Rescue Service in the UK as it enables MFRS to deploy locally, nationally, internationally and maintain a flood response.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

CFO/039/21 IRMP 2021-24 Post Consultation Report

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

DEFRA Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs.

MFRS Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service