MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**		
DATE:	**14 DECEMBER 2023**	**REPORT NO:**	**CFO/052/23**
PRESENTING OFFICER	**CHIEF FIRE OFFICER PHIL GARRIGAN**		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**DEB APPLETON**	**REPORT AUTHOR:**	**JACKIE SUTTON**
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	**STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM**		
TITLE OF REPORT:	**STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE 2022-23**		

APPENDICES:	**APPENDIX A: STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE 2022-23**

Purpose of Report

1. To request that Members consider and approve the Authority's Statement of Assurance 2022-23 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 2022-23; and

   c) if approved, the Statement of Assurance 2022-23, 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 2022 to March 2023) – to the National Framework, the 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. With this in mind, the Authority's Statement of Assurance April 2022 to March 2023 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 MFRA 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, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

11. There are no risk management, health and safety or 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.*

12. 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 MFRA

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NONE

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

MFRA	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority
MFRS	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service