MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**		
DATE:	**15 DECEMBER 2016**	**REPORT NO:**	**CFO/084/16**
PRESENTING OFFICER	**DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**DEB APPLETON**	**REPORT AUTHOR:**	**JACKIE SUTTON**
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	**STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT GROUP**		
TITLE OF REPORT:	**STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE 2015-16**		

APPENDICES:	**APPENDIX A: STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE 2015-16**

Purpose of Report

1. To request that Members consider and approve the Authority's Statement of Assurance 2015-16 for publication on the Authority website.

Recommendation

2. That Members consider the information contained within this report and approve the Authority's draft Statement of Assurance 2015-16.

Introduction and Background

3. The Fire and Rescue Service National Framework published in 2012 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 on financial, governance and operational matters and show how they have had due regard to the expectations set out in their integrated risk management plan and the requirements included in the Framework. To provide assurance, fire and rescue authorities must publish an annual statement of assurance'.

4. The National Framework goes on to say that one of the principal aims of the statement of assurance is to provide an accessible way in which communities, Government, local authorities and other partners may make a valid assessment of their local fire and rescue authority's performance. The statement of assurance will also be used as a source of information on which to base the Secretary of State's biennial report under section 25 of the *Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.*

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 extract, or links to these documents within their statement of assurance.

6. With this in mind, the Authority's Statement of Assurance (which reflects back on the 2015/16 performance year) 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 itself a requirement if 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 Mission: *Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters*

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

CFO/095/15 Statement of Assurance 2014-15

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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