

<b>MERSEYSIDE FIRE &amp; RESCUE AUTHORITY</b>			
<b>MEETING OF THE:</b>			
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>16 DECEMBER 2014</b>	<b>REPORT NO:</b>	<b>CFO/127/14</b>
<b>PRESENTING OFFICER</b>	<b>DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER</b>		
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	<b>DCFO GARRIGAN</b>	<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	<b>DEB APPLETON</b>
<b>OFFICERS CONSULTED:</b>	<b>STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT GROUP HEADS OF PROCUREMENT; FINANCE; ESTATES AND ICT</b>		
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY CODE 2014</b>		

<b>APPENDICES:</b>	<b>APPENDIX A:</b>	<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY CODE 2014</b>
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### **Purpose of Report**

1. To inform Members of the arrangements for implementing the Local Government Transparency Code 2014.

### **Recommendation**

2. That Members note the action being taken to implement to Local Government Transparency Code 2014 (Appendix A).

### **Introduction and Background**

3. The Government is keen that local authorities publish as much data as possible in a way that is accessible to the public, so that interested stakeholders can scrutinise expenditure. There has been a requirement for some time for authorities to publish expenditure over £500 and the new Code published in October extends that requirement to several other areas. Full details can be found in the Code at Appendix A. In brief, the data that must now be published by the Fire and Rescue Authority and the responsible officers are detailed below:

<b>Mandatory publication</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Responsible Department</b>	<b>Deadline for first publication</b>
Expenditure exceeding £500	Quarterly (already published monthly)	Finance	N/A
Procurement	Quarterly	Procurement	31 <sup>st</sup> December

Information			2014
Fire and Rescue Service Land	Annually	Estates	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2015
Grants to voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations	Annually	Finance	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2015
Organisation chart	Annually	People and Organisational Development	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2015
Trade union facility time	Annually	People and Organisational Development	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2015
Senior salaries	Annually	People and Organisational Development/Finance	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2015
Constitution	Annually (already on the website)	Legal and Democratic Services	N/A
Pay multiple	Annually	People and Organisational Development/Finance	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2015
Fraud	Annually	Finance	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2015
Waste contracts	Annually	Estates	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2015
Revision to the website to facilitate publication	N/A	ICT	Early December 2014

4. Expenditure exceeding £500 and Procurement Information must be published quarterly (by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014), the remainder annually (initially by 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015). The £500 expenditure information is already published on the website.
5. Responsible departments have been made aware of the requirement and the ICT department are amending the existing section on the website to host the new information.
6. Although the process so far has been coordinated by the Director of Strategy and Performance, responsibility for uploading the data and information will lie with the responsible officers.

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#### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

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7. The Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service website has been designed to meet accessibility requirements.

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### **Staff Implications**

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8. Responsible officers are aware of the requirements of the Code and the implications for their departments.

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### **Legal Implications**

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9. Publication of this data is a requirement of the Local Authority Data Transparency Regulations 2014.

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

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10. There are no direct costs associated with this report however compliance with the code places additional burdens on departments at a time of unprecedented financial challenge.

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

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11. There are no Health, Safety or environmental implications associated with this report.

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

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12. Publishing this data is designed to allow any interested person to scrutinise the Authority.

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### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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### **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

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