

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	30TH JULY 2015	REPORT NO:	CFO/072/15
PRESENTING OFFICER	DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	DCFO PHIL GARRIGAN	REPORT AUTHOR:	SM ANDY GROOM
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	GM GUY KEEN		
TITLE OF REPORT:	SPRINKLERS INITIATIVE UPDATE		

APPENDICES:	APPENDIX A: HOARDING DESIGNS
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Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members on the progress of the initiative to fit sprinklers in purpose built blocks of flats.
2. To seek approval from Members to extend the scope of this scheme to other types of premises in Merseyside that house vulnerable residents.

Recommendation

3. That Members approve the broadening of the scope of premises that can be supported by the capital funding programme to include other premises that house vulnerable residents (e.g. persons with limited mobility, dementia or mental health issues) or buildings that pose a particular risk to firefighter safety.

Introduction and Background

4. Authority Report CFO135/13 gave approval for £200k funding for the provision of capital funding to support the installation of fire suppression and engineered solutions to enhance the safety of Firefighters and residents in purpose built blocks of flats.
5. The Protection Department have actively engaged with Housing Associations and Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) to generate interest in the retro fitting of sprinklers in purpose built blocks of flats. A symposium was held at the Training and Development Academy with a realistic sprinkler demonstration. Presentations have also been delivered to individual RSL's and Chief Executives of all local housing providers have been written to informing them of the grant scheme.
6. Liverpool Mutual Homes (LMH) has agreed to enter into a partnership with MFRA to fit sprinklers into Marwood Towers which is a 14 storey block on

Scotland Road. This development will comprise 81 units for tenants aged over 55 including 10 'supported living' units.

7. Works on the redevelopment of Marwood Towers have commenced with completion anticipated in autumn 2016. Hoardings have been erected around the site. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service (MFRS) have designed sprinkler messages to be included on the hoardings and LMH have produced the graphic designs for MFRS free of charge. See Appendix A.
8. The tendering process for the sprinkler sub-contractor has not yet been completed however it is expected that Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (MFRA) 'part-funding' contribution to the sprinkler installation will be around 100k. Subsequent revenue and lifecycle costs for the system will be met by LMH.
9. Despite some initial expressions of interest from other Housing Associations and RSL's there has been no further acceptance to install sprinklers in any other high rise blocks of flats.
10. There has however been significant interest from other organisations to enter into partnership with MFRA to fit sprinklers into premises other than purpose built flats. These include Peasley Cross Mental Health Hospital and Helena Housing in St Helens for a tenant with hoarding issues living in a semi-detached house.

Equality and Diversity Implications

11. Each premises identified for capital funding will be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment. It is recognised some of the most vulnerable residents are the elderly which will be considered when identifying which premises to target.

Staff Implications

12. Staffing contribution for this project will be met from existing resource.

Legal Implications

13. Through liaison with the legal department a Suppression Grant Funding Agreement has been developed for MFRA and the RSL's to formally sign up to.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

14. Any capital expenditure will be met from the £200k that members approved at the initiation of the project.:-

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

15. The provision of sprinklers will limit the spread and intensity of fire in the room or compartment of origin and mitigate fire spread beyond to other parts of the building.

16. The provision of a tannoy/intercom system allows residents to be informed of their actions in the event of a fire. For example, if a “stay put” policy is in place then this can be reinforced to prevent residents entering areas of risk.

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

17. The provision of fixed installations such as sprinklers and intercom will have a positive impact upon the fire risk management of premises making them safer for residents and Firefighters.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

CFO/135/13 Fire Risk Management In Residential Blocks

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

LMH	Liverpool M utual H omes
MFRA	M erseyside F ire and R escue A uthority is the physical and legal entity. When writing reports MFRA is the “object”.
MFRS	M erseyside F ire and R escue S ervice is the service provided by MFRA.
RSL	R egistered S ocial L andlord