

<b>MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY</b>			
<b>MEETING OF THE:</b>	<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE</b>		
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>14 APRIL 2016</b>	<b>REPORT NO:</b>	<b>CFO/029/16</b>
<b>PRESENTING OFFICER</b>	<b>CHIEF FIRE OFFICER</b>		
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	<b>CHIEF FIRE OFFICER</b>	<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	<b>CHIEF FIRE OFFICER</b>
<b>OFFICERS CONSULTED:</b>	<b>CFO ROY WILSHIRE, HERTFORDSHIRE FRS JANET HENSHAW NICK MERNOCK IAN CUMMINS</b>		
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>MERSEYSIDE AS LEAD AUTHORITY FOR NATIONAL RESILIENCE ASSURANCE ON BEHALF OF HOME OFFICE</b>		

<b>APPENDICES:</b>	
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### **Purpose of Report**

1. To request that Members grant delegated authority to the Chief Fire Officer (CFO) to reach agreement with Home Office over Merseyside taking on the role of Lead Authority for the delivery of National Resilience assurance.

### **Recommendation**

2. That Members grant delegated authority to the CFO to reach agreement with Home Office over Merseyside taking on the role of Lead Authority for the delivery of National Resilience assurance.

### **Introduction and Background**

3. Following the terrorist attacks in the USA on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2001 the Government of the day initiated the New Dimensions programme in order to improve national resilience arrangements to deal with similar events here in the UK.
4. The New Dimensions programme has resulted in the delivery of the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Conventional Explosive (CBRN (E)), High Volume Pumping (HVP) and Command and Control (C&C) capabilities. All of these capabilities are provided primarily for use at national incidents through discrete funding and support arrangements from Home Office.
5. The current governance arrangements for what is now known as National Resilience are delivered through a tripartite partnership between the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA), the Local Government Association (LGA) and the

Home Office via the National Resilience Board (NRB). The CFO is the CFOA strategic lead for National Resilience and the Chair of NRB.

6. The assurance arrangements for National Resilience are delivered through the National Resilience Assurance Team (NRAT). The NRAT is a team of seconded Officers dedicated to each of the National Resilience capabilities and supported by a CFOA capability lead officer. Home Office currently finance the NRAT through a grant to CFOA National Resilience Ltd (CNR) which is a commercial company set up by CFOA to manage the grant.
7. It is the wish of Home Office to move away from CNR delivering this function and instead utilise a Lead Authority. The Home Office also require a saving of 25% against the 2015/16 budget for National Resilience assurance as a result of Departmental savings targets set by Treasury. The CFO has been requested by Home Office to facilitate this transition in his capacity as strategic lead for National Resilience and Chair of the NRB. Any arrangement will be delivered in partnership with CFOA and the existing capability leads under the auspices of the CFOA Operations Directorate led by the CFOA Operations Director CFO Roy Wilshire of Hertfordshire FRS.
8. It is the view of the CFO that Merseyside can undertake the functional of Lead Authority for National Resilience assurance and deliver the 25% saving whilst minimising the impact on the service delivered by the NRAT. Members are therefore requested to grant delegated authority to the CFO to reach agreement with Home Office over Merseyside taking on the role of Lead Authority for the delivery of National Resilience assurance.

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### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

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9. There are no equality and diversity implications contained within this report.

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### **Staff Implications**

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10. There are potential TUPE and redundancy implications for the support staff currently employed by CNR which will be addressed by the Director of People and Organisational Development and the Director of Legal, Procurement and Democratic Services during any transition process.

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### **Legal Implications**

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11. Any legal implications arising from any transition from CNR to the Authority will be addressed by the Director of Legal, Procurement and Democratic Services.

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

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12. There are no direct financial implications to the Authority in taking on the function of Lead Authority for National Resilience on behalf of Home Office as the arrangement will be cost neutral.

13. However in practical terms the financial contribution that is made to the Authority to cover overheads will serve to maintain support service posts which might otherwise have been placed at risk due to the need to deliver the £11m savings target between now and 2019/20.

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

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14. Any risks to the Authority in taking on the Lead Authority function will be addressed in the agreement reached with Home Office.
15. A further report will be presented to the Authority containing all of the details relating to any agreement reached with the Home Office which will include how risks will be managed on behalf of both parties.

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

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16. Whilst there is no direct contribution to the Authority mission undertaking the function of Lead Authority for National Resilience serves to maintain the existing National Resilience capabilities from which Merseyside derives significant operational benefit.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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**GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

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