

Status of Report: Public

Meeting: Combined Fire Authority (CFA)

Date: 21 June 2023

Subject: Annual Report and Statement of Assurance 2022-2023

Report by: Chief Fire and Rescue Officer

Author: Chris Moir Planning Manager

For: Information Only

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Annual Report and Statement of Assurance for 2022-2023 to the CFA.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that CFA note the content of Annual Report and Statement of Assurance for 2022-2023.

Executive Summary

3. The content of the Annual Report for 2022-2023 presents an overview of the levels of performance that have been achieved during the previous financial year. The report also includes some key Service deliverables and achievements.
4. The publication of the Annual Statement of Assurance is a statutory requirement required in accordance with the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England.
5. The Annual Report and Statement of Assurance for 2022-2023 is attached as Appendix 1.

Background

6. The Fire and Rescue Framework for England requires that every fire and rescue service creates a Statement of Assurance and publishes it annually. Its purpose is to provide assurance to their communities and to Government on financial, governance and operational matters.
7. The CFA publishes an annual report every year, highlighting previous year's performance and providing information on how it is meeting agreed aims and outcomes.

8. The report also contains several links to other documents or areas; these include the Annual Governance Statement and will include the Annual Statement of Accounts when finalised.
9. There are also links to various operational assurance acts that the CFA complies with in order to discharge all statutory duties.

Report Implications/Impact

10. Legal (including crime and disorder)

The annual statement of assurance is a statutory requirement as detailed in the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England. The statement of assurance must be signed by an elected member on behalf of the authority.

11. Financial (including value for money, benefits, and efficiencies)

The Annual Report and Statement of Assurance for 2022-2023 incorporates a section on financial assurance. If the latest version of a financial audit or statement has not been approved yet, the link will point to the previous version and then be updated retrospectively.

12. Risk (including corporate and operational, health and safety and any impact on the continuity of service delivery)

Failure to publish a statement of assurance would not meet with the statutory requirements of the National Framework.

Publication of our annual performance figures mitigates any organisational reputational risk and that of not meeting the Local Governance Transparency Code 2015.

13. Staff, Service Users and Stakeholders (including the Equality Impact Assessment)

The relevant departments will deal with any actions arising from performance or assurance outcomes.

14. Environmental

The documents will only be available in an electronic format unless hard copies are specifically requested.

15. Impact upon "Our Plan" Objectives

Publication of these documents meets the aim of 'providing assurance' by ensuring that we have well-informed staff and communities.

Background Papers

None.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Annual Report and Statement of Assurance 2022-2023.

Officers to Contact

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