

**Status of Report: Public**

**Meeting: Combined Fire Authority**

**Date: 28 July 2021**

**Subject: Our Plan 2020-2024 (2021 Refresh), Annual Report and Statement of Assurance 2020-2021**

**Report by: The Chief Fire and Rescue Officer**

**Author: Chris Moir, Planning Manager**

**For: Information Only**

### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of this report is to present Our Plan 2020-2024 (2021 Refresh) and the Annual Report and Statement of Assurance for 2020-2021.

### **Recommendation**

2. It is recommended that the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) notes the refreshed version of Our Plan 2020-2024 and the Annual Report and Statement of Assurance for 2020-2021, and authorises the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer to make any minor amendments where necessary.

### **Executive Summary**

3. Our Plan 2020-2024 (attached at Appendix A) is the Corporate and Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) for 2020-24 and contains the 2020-2024 IRMP proposals approved in February 2020 for implementation by the CFA.
4. The Annual Report for 2020-2021 (attached at Appendix B) 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, including Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service's response and activities during the Covid-19 Pandemic.
5. The publication of the Annual Statement of Assurance (also attached at Appendix B) is a statutory requirement required in accordance with the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England.

### **Background**

6. The Fire and Rescue Framework for England requires that every fire and rescue service has an Integrated Risk Management Plan. As in previous years, this IRMP has been combined with the Service's Corporate Plan. The Corporate Plan, known as 'Our Plan' contains the planning framework, the 5

strategies and the aims, outcomes and objectives of the organisation, all of which have been refreshed for 2021 following the appointment of new Area Managers who are responsible for delivery of the strategies.

7. Delivery of the strategies is supported by individual District and Department Plans, progress against which is reported to the Senior Management Team.
8. The Fire and Rescue Framework also requires that a Statement of Assurance is published annually by all fire and rescue services. Its purpose is to provide assurance to their community and to the Government on financial, governance and operational matters.
9. 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.
10. The report also contains a number of links to other documents or areas; these include the Annual Governance Statement and will include the Annual Statement of Accounts when finalised.
11. There are also links to various operational assurance acts that the CFA complies with in order to discharge all statutory duties.

### **Report Implications/Impact**

12. Legal (including crime and disorder)

The production of an IRMP and an annual statement of assurance are statutory requirements 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.

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

The Annual Report and Statement of Assurance for 2020-2021 incorporates a section on financial assurance.

14. 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.

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

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

16. Environmental

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

17. 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 A – Our Plan 2020-2024 (Refreshed 2021)

Appendix B – Annual Report and Statement of Assurance 2020-2021.

### **Officers to Contact**

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