

**Status of Report: Public**

**Meeting: Combined Fire Authority**

**Date: 27 September 2018**

**Subject: Annual Report and Statement of Assurance 2017-18**

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

**Author: Chris Moir (Planning Manager)**

**For: Decision**

## **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to present the Annual Report and Statement of Assurance for 2017-18.

## **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) approve the Annual Report and Statement of Assurance for 2017-18 for publication, and authorise the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer to make any necessary minor amendments prior to publication.

## **3. Executive Summary**

3.1. The content of the Annual Report for 2017-18 presents a review of the levels of performance that have been achieved during the previous year. The publication of the Annual Statement of Assurance is a statutory requirement required in accordance with the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England.

3.2. The Annual Report and Statement of Assurance for 2017-18 is attached to this covering report (at the Appendix).

## **4. Background**

4.1. The Fire and Rescue Framework for England requires that a statement of assurance is published annually by all fire and rescue services. Its purpose is to provide assurance to the community and to the Government on financial, governance and operational matters. The CFA publishes an annual report every year, highlighting the previous year's performance and providing information on how it is meeting agreed aims and outcomes.

4.2. The report also contains a number of links to other documents or areas; these include 'Our Plan', the combined Corporate and Integrated Risk Management

Plan, the Annual Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement. There are also links to various operational assurance acts that the CFA complies with in order to discharge all statutory duties.

## **5. Report Implications / Impact**

### **5.1. Legal (including crime and disorder)**

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

The statement has been viewed and checked by central government in previous years to ensure its currency.

b) The publication of performance information demonstrates compliance with good practice to be open, transparent and accountable to the communities for the service we provide.

### **5.2. Financial (including value for money, benefits and efficiencies)**

The Annual Report and Statement of Assurance for 2017-18 includes a link to the 2017/18 Statement of Accounts.

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

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

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

### **5.4. Staff, Service Users and Stakeholders (including the Equality Impact Assessment)**

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

### **5.5. Environmental**

Once approved, the document will only be available in an electronic format unless hard copies are specifically requested.

## **6. Impact upon Our Plan Objectives**

Publication of this document meets the aim of 'providing assurance' by ensuring that Leicestershire's communities are well-informed.

**7. Background Papers**

None.

**8. Appendix**

Annual Report and Statement of Assurance 2017-18.

**8. Officers to Contact**

Chris Moir, Programme Co-ordinator

[christopher.moir@lfrs.org](mailto:christopher.moir@lfrs.org)

0116 2872241

Rick Taylor, Chief Fire and Rescue Officer

[rick.taylor@lfrs.org](mailto:rick.taylor@lfrs.org)

0116 2872241