

Status of Report: Public

Meeting: Combined Fire Authority

Date: 15 June 2022

Subject: Our Plan 2020-2024 (2022 Refresh) and Annual Report and Statement of Assurance 2021-2022

Report by: The Chief Fire and Rescue Officer

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For: Information Only

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to present Our Plan 2020-2024 (2022 Refresh) and the Annual Report and Statement of Assurance for 2021-2022.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) reviews the refreshed version of Our Plan 2020-2024 and the Annual Report and Statement of Assurance for 2021-2022, giving delegated powers to the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer to make any minor amendments where necessary.

Executive Summary

3. Our Plan 2020-2024 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 2021-2022 presents an overview of the levels of performance that have been achieved during the previous financial year and also includes some key Service deliverables and achievements.
5. The publication of the Annual Statement of Assurance is a statutory requirement required in accordance with the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England.
6. Our Plan 2020-2024 is attached as Appendix 1 to this report and the Annual Report and Statement of Assurance for 2021-2022 is attached as Appendix 2.

Background

7. 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 Corporate Plan. The Corporate Plan,

known as 'Our Plan' contains the planning framework, the five strategies and the aims, outcomes and objectives of the organisation. Some of these have been refreshed for 2022 following the appointment of new Area Managers who are responsible for delivery of the strategies; this 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 the community and to Government on financial, governance and operational matters.
9. 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.
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 2021-2022 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 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 1 – Our Plan 2020-2024 (Refreshed 2022)

Appendix 2 – Annual Report and Statement of Assurance 2021-2022.

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