

Report of the Head of Corporate Services

Fire Authority Annual Report 2019-20

Purpose of report

1. To adopt the Fire Authority Annual Report 2019-20 and approve it for publication.
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Recommendation

It is recommended that the Authority adopts the draft Fire Authority Annual Report 2019-20 and approves it for publication, subject to any final minor changes as agreed by the Chief Fire Officer in consultation with the Chairman.

Introduction and Background

2. The Service produces a Fire Authority Annual Report as part of its corporate planning process. The Annual Report for 2019-20 presents an overview of the Service's activities in 2018-19, including a summary of overall performance and achievements, and outlines plans for 2019-20. The Report is a separate enclosure at Appendix 1.
3. The document is prepared in a style ready for publication on the Service website, so it is easier to read and access. In line with our aim to improve community understanding of the work of the Service, this year's Annual Report also includes a number of easy-to-understand infographics rather than text. These help to provide a quick overview of the Service and its performance over last year.

Annual Report 2019-20

4. The Annual Report has three main purposes: a review of the year's work of the Service including notable highlights; an overview of the Service's performance over the last year; and an update on completed and planned work in relation to the delivery of the Community Risk Management Plan 2014-2020. There is also a summary of the Service's new Core Purpose, Vision and Mission Statement together with a new set of Values. These have been renewed to ensure the Service remains focused on making our communities safer. The new Values are subject to Fire Authority endorsement, as reported elsewhere on your agenda.
5. This year's report also summarises the findings of the independent inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services, which looked at how effective and efficient the Service is and how it supports its people.

6. Last year's Annual Report envisaged that governance of the Service would have passed to the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner by this time. However, following requests by Hereford & Worcester and Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authorities for a judicial review of the Government's decision, this has not taken place at the time of writing. The judicial review hearing was scheduled for the 5th and 6th June 2019, so Members may be aware of the outcome at the present meeting.
7. Members should also note that, at the time of writing, updated financial information was not available. These sections of the Annual Report are left blank, but will be completed by the Director of Finance & Assets before publication on the Service website, subject to agreement from the Chief Fire Officer and the Chairman.

Conclusion/Summary

8. Subject to Authority approval, the finalised report will be published on the Service website.

Corporate Considerations

Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	The whole document includes information on finance, property and human resources and changes which are necessary to support the implementation of Fire Authority objectives.
Strategic Policy Links (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	The whole document highlights key achievements and performance in delivering the Service's Core Purpose and Vision during 2018-19, and it highlights proposed actions in 2019-20 as part of the delivery of the CRMP 2014-2020.
Risk Management / Health & Safety (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	The document provides an overview of activities and proposed actions. Any risk implications are considered as part of the details of each activity and proposed action.
Consultation (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	Senior Management Board consultation.
Equalities (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	Business Impact Assessment completed for the Annual Report process. Equality and diversity will be considered by each project or activity manager. Equality is a key commitment of the Service's People Strategy.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Fire Authority Annual Report 2019-20 (separate enclosure)

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