

## **Report of the Assistant Chief Officer: Director of Prevention**

### **Statement of Assurance 2024-25**

#### **Purpose of report**

1. To present the Statement of Assurance 2024-25 for scrutiny and approval.
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#### **Recommendation**

***It is recommended that the draft Statement of Assurance 2024-25 be approved.***

#### **Introduction and Background**

2. The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England 2018 requires Fire and Rescue Authorities to publish an Annual Statement of Assurance. The Statement should provide members of the public with assurance on governance, financial and operational matters. It should also show due regard to the expectations set out in the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) and other provisions in the National Framework.
3. The Statement of Assurance is an annual report designed to provide assurance to the communities of Herefordshire and Worcestershire that the Service are doing everything we can, to respond to emergencies when our communities need us to provide effective and efficient prevention and protection services.
4. The Statement of Assurance summarises key points and signposts the reader to the relevant Fire Authority reports publicly available on the Service website. It sits alongside these reports and is not designed to reproduce them.

#### **Statement of Assurance 2024-25**

5. As noted in previous years, the Statement of Assurance is a short report designed to give staff, partners and members of the public assurance that the Authority continues to do everything it can to keep them safe as well as providing value for money.
6. The Statement covers the year up to 31 March 2025 and highlights some of the work that we are doing to drive excellence across the whole Service. It covers three main areas: governance, financial and operational matters. It provides information on how the Authority funds are managed and how services are organised and carried out properly, efficiently and effectively. It reflects many

other related documents including the Annual Governance Statement, the Statement of Accounts, audit reports, the CRMP 2021-25 and the Three Core Strategies. The Statement also provides links to other assurance documents to assist readers assessing performance and value for money.

### Scrutiny of the Statement of Assurance 2024-25

- The Fire Authority should satisfy themselves that the Statement, alongside other documents referenced in the report, provides appropriate levels of assurance to the public and Government in relation to governance, financial and operational matters.

### Conclusion/Summary

- The Statement of Assurance 2024-25 is designed to provide assurance on governance, financial and operational matters. Much of the information in the Statement is already publicly available elsewhere and links are provided in the document as advised in national guidance.

### Corporate Considerations

<b>Resource Implications</b> (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	The Statement is designed to provide assurance on resource management alongside governance and operational matters.
<b>Strategic Policy Links &amp; Core Code of Ethics</b> (Identify how proposals link with current priorities and policy framework and align to the Core Code of Ethics)	The Statement sits alongside other key documents including the Annual Governance Statement, the Statement of Accounts, the Community Risk Management Plan and Core Strategies, and aligns with the Core Code of Ethics.
<b>Productivity &amp; Efficiency</b> (Identify how proposal improves productivity or efficiency)	None
<b>Risk Management / Health &amp; Safety</b> (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	The Statement references requirements in relation to risk management and health & safety and provides links where appropriate.
<b>Consultation</b> (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	Strategic Leadership Board consideration.
<b>Equalities</b> (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	As an overview document, an EIA is not required for this report.

<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b> (where personal data is processed a DPIA must be completed to ensure compliant handling)	Not required – no personal data is identified
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**Supporting Information**

Appendix 1 – Statement of Assurance 2024-25