Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority
12 December 2022

Report of the Assistant Director: Prevention

Statement of Assurance 2021-22

Purpose of report

1.   To present the draft Statement of Assurance 2021-22 for approval and publication.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Statement of Assurance 2021-22 be approved for publication.

Introduction and Background

2.   The Government's Fire and Rescue National Framework for England 2018 requires Fire and Rescue Authorities to publish an Annual Statement of Assurance. The Statement is designed to provide members of the public with assurance on governance, financial and operational matters. It must also show that due regard is given to the expectations set out in the Community Risk Management Plan and other provisions in the National Framework.

3.   The Statement of Assurance summarises key points and signposts the reader to relevant Fire Authority reports publicly available on the Service website. It sits alongside these reports and is not designed to reproduce them.

4.   The Statement covers the year 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

Statement of Assurance 2021-22

5.   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 three areas: governance, finance and operational matters. It provides information on how Authority funds are managed and how services are organised and carried out properly, efficiently and effectively. It reflects many other existing documents including the Annual Governance Statement, the Statement of Accounts, internal and external audit reports, the Community Risk Management Plan 2021-25 and the three Core Strategies (Response, Protection, and Prevention). The Statement also provides links to other assurance documents to help readers assess performance and value for money.

Scrutiny of the Statement of Assurance 2021-22

7.   Fire Authority should satisfy itself 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.

8.   Members are asked to provide constructive scrutiny of the Statement and approve it for publication.

Conclusion/Summary

9.   The Statement of Assurance 2021-22 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.

10.   Subject to your approval, the finalised version of the Statement will be published on the Service website.

Corporate Considerations

Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	The Statement is designed to provide assurance on resource management among other things.
Strategic Policy Links (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	The Statement sits alongside other key documents, including the Annual Governance Statement, the Statement of Accounts, the Community Risk Management Plan and Core Strategies.
Risk Management / Health & Safety (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	The Statement references the requirements in relation to risk management and health & safety, where appropriate.
Consultation (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	Strategic Leadership Board consultation.
Equalities (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	An EIA is not required for this report. The Statement is an overview document.
Data Protection Impact	Not required – no personal data is identified.

Assessment (where personal data is processed a DPIA must be completed to ensure compliant handling)	

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Statement of Assurance 2021-22