

Report of the Assistant Chief Officer/Director of Prevention

Statement of Assurance 2022-23

Purpose of report

1. To present the Statement of Assurance 2022-23 for approval and publication.
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Recommendation

It is recommended that Members consider and approve the Statement of Assurance 2022-23 for publication.

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 and other provisions in the National Framework.
3. The Statement of Assurance summarises key points and signposts the reader to relevant Fire Authority reports and documents publicly available on the Service website. It sits alongside these reports and it not designed to reproduce them. The Statement of Assurance 2022-23 is attached as Appendix 1.

Statement of Assurance 2022-23

4. 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.
5. The Statement covers three main areas: governance, financial 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 related documents including the Annual Governance Statement, the Statement of Accounts, audit reports, the Community Risk Management Plan 2021-25 and the three Core Strategies. The Statement also provides links to other assurance documents to assist readers in assessing performance and value for money.

6. This year's Statement notes that there have been delays in completing the Statement of Accounts 2022-23, but signposts readers to the Service's Accounts webpage where the document will be published once all relevant information is available.

Scrutiny of the Statement of Assurance 2022-23

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

Conclusions/Summary

9. The Statement of Assurance 2022-23 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 alongside governance and operational matters.
Strategic Policy Links & Code of Ethics (Identify how proposals link in with current priorities & 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. The Statement also aligns fully with the five elements of the Core Code of Ethics.
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 and provides links where appropriate.
Consultation (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	Strategic Leadership Board consideration.

<p>Equalities (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)</p>	<p>As and overview document, an EIA is not required for this report.</p>
<p>Data Protection Impact Assessment (where personal data is processed a DPIA must be completed to ensure compliant handling)</p>	<p>Not required – no personal data is identified.</p>

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Statement of Assurance 2022-23