

## **Report of the Head of Corporate Services**

### **Fire Authority Annual Report 2020-21**

#### **Purpose of report**

1. To adopt the Fire Authority Annual Report 2020-21 and approve it for publication.

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#### **Recommendation**

***It is recommended that that the Authority adopts the draft Fire Authority Annual Report 2020-21 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 2020-21 presents an overview of the Service's activities in 2019-20, including a summary of overall performance and achievements, and outlines plans for 2020-21. 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, the Annual Report 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 2020-21**

4. The Annual Report has three main purposes: a review of the previous year's work of the Service, including notable highlights; an overview of performance; and an update on completed and planned work in relation to the delivery of the Community Risk Management Plan 2014-20. It also includes a summary of the Service's Core Purpose, Vision and Mission Statement which, together with the Service's Values, ensure the organisation remains focused on making our communities safer.
5. There is a summary of the findings of the independent inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), which took place in 2018. The second round of inspections, which will again look at how effective and efficient the Service is and how it

supports its people, had been due to take place at around the time of the publication of this report. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, however, this has now been postponed by the HMICFRS until further notice.

6. When last year's Annual Report was issued, a Judicial Review into the decision to pass governance of the Service to the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner was due to be heard. This subsequently failed on appeal. A second Judicial Review has also been lodged by Hereford & Worcester and Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authorities against the review decision, but this has yet to be heard at the time of writing.

## Conclusion/Summary

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

## Corporate Considerations

<b>Resource Implications</b> (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.
<b>Strategic Policy Links</b> (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 2019-20, and it highlights proposed actions in 2020-21 as part of the delivery of the CRMP 2014-20
<b>Risk Management / Health &amp; Safety</b> (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.
<b>Consultation</b> (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	Senior Management Board consultation
<b>Equalities</b> (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 2020-21 (separate enclosure)