



**HAMPSHIRE
FIRE AND
RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Purpose: Approval

Date: **4 December 2019**

Title: **ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE**

Report of Chief Fire Officer

SUMMARY

1. The Annual Statement of Assurance is a document that is required by the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (updated in 2018) to provide assurance to local communities and government on financial, governance and operational matters.
2. Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority publish an Annual Statement of Assurance which is made accessible to all stakeholders to enable transparency of fire and rescue services in Hampshire for the period April 2018 to March 2019.
3. The format of the Annual Statement is not prescribed and therefore it is determined by the Fire and Rescue Service to demonstrate to local communities and partner organisations how it fulfils its statutory obligations and activities to make Hampshire a safer place to live, work and travel.

THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

4. The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (updated in 2018) sets out the reason for each Fire and Rescue Service to produce an Annual Statement of Assurance:

“The statement should outline the way in which the authority and its fire and rescue service has had regard – in the period covered by the document – to this National Framework, the Integrated Risk Management Plan and to any strategic plan (eg the Fire and Rescue Plan – see 4.10 below) prepared by the authority for that period. The authority must also provide assurance to their community and to government on financial, governance and operational matters.”

5. **Appendix A** contains the detailed Annual Statement of Assurance which has been structured, for the reader’s benefit, to follow the Fire and Rescue National Framework structure.

SUPPORTING OUR SERVICE PLAN AND PRIORITIES

6. The Annual Statement of Assurance, through the Fire and Rescue Authority, provides assurance to the public on the Fire and Rescue Service's fulfilment of its duties and activities to make Hampshire safer. This is mirrored in the creation and content of our strategic goals (contained within the Service Plan).

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7. The cost associated with the production of the Annual Statement of Assurance is within existing resource plans.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8. There are no anticipated positive or negative impacts to the environment or sustainability arising from this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10. The contents of this report are considered compatible with the provisions of equality and human rights legislation.

RISK ANALYSIS

11. The scrutiny of the Annual Statement of Assurance by Members is a key aspect of mitigating risks to public safety and communities in Hampshire. It is also necessary to identify and mitigate organisational risks.

CONCLUSION

12. The Annual Statement of Assurance for 2018/19 provides stakeholders with oversight of Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service's ability to deliver its core purpose of making life safer in Hampshire, and therefore meets the requirements of the 2018 National Fire and Rescue Framework.

RECOMMENDATION

13. That the Annual Statement of Assurance for 2018/19 be approved by the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

Appendices:

Appendix A: Annual Assurance Statement 2018/19

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