



Purpose: Approval

Date: **5 JUNE 2019**

Title: **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2018/19**

Report of Chief Fire Officer

### SUMMARY

1. Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority is required to publish an Annual Governance Statement each year. It is presented to Members of the Fire Authority for consideration and approval. Once approved the statement must be signed by the Chairman of the Authority and the Chief Fire Officer. It forms part of the Annual Accounts 2018/19, a statutory requirement of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.
2. The Annual Governance Statement for 2018/19 is attached in **Appendix A** for the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority approval.

### BACKGROUND

3. The Annual Governance Statement is produced by every Local Authority following the principles contained within the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) publication titled *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government*. The principles contain a review of the existing governance arrangements. There is a requirement for the Annual Governance Statement to include an agreed action plan showing actions taken or proposed to deal with significant governance issues. The annual statement should include reference to how issues raised in the previous year's Annual Governance Statement have been resolved.
4. Guidance on the production of the Annual Governance Statement is produced by the CIPFA and the Society of Local Authority Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE). This guidance was updated in 2016 in a publication called *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government*. Our governance arrangements have been reviewed in accordance with the guidance which has enabled the Statement to be produced.
5. The guidance sets out the following core principles that form the basis on which effective governance should be built:

- Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of law;
- Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement;
- Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits;
- Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes;
- Developing the entity's capacity including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it;
- Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management;
- Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability.

### ACTION PLAN

6. Appendix A incorporates the Action Plan at Section 6. An update on progress against actions from the year 2017/18 is detailed at Section 7.

### SUPPORTING OUR SERVICE PLAN AND PRIORITIES

7. In reviewing our existing governance arrangements and identifying areas to be improved, HFRS are ensuring accountability for making Hampshire a safer place.
8. Governance reviews support good governance practice, which supports our Service Plan and priorities by ensuring an efficient and effective process for decision making, providing clarity and visibility to ensure the Service meets the needs of our Hampshire communities.

### CONSULTATION

9. Finance and Legal advice and input has been sought during the preparation of the Statement. During preparation of the Annual Governance Statement, Officers across the Executive Group have been consulted. Our Internal Auditors have been provided with a draft copy.

### RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

10. The Annual Governance Statement has no resource implications and no additional cost to the Service. The work is currently carried out within existing resource and budget.

### ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

11. There are no positive or negative impacts to the environment or sustainability which may result due to this proposal.

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

12. The Annual Governance Statement is a statutory requirement of the Fire Authority.

## PEOPLE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

13. The proposals in this report are considered compatible with the provisions of equality and human rights legislation.

## OPTIONS

14. To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2018/19 and to include this in the Annual Accounts 2018/19.

## RISK ANALYSIS

15. The process of producing the Annual Governance Statement involves reviewing the effectiveness of a wide range of controls and measures that are indicators of the effectiveness of good governance.

## EVALUATION

16. It is important that Service activities are evaluated to identify what/how the Service can learn, understand, plan and do better for the organisation and our communities.
17. Delivery against the proposed Action Plan in Appendix A will be undertaken across the next year and evaluated in the Annual Governance Statement 2019-20.

## CONCLUSION

18. The Annual Governance statement is submitted to the Authority in accordance with Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, for approval and inclusion in the Annual Accounts 2018/19. Included in the document is the action plan to deal with significant governance issues.

## RECOMMENDATION

19. That the Annual Governance Statement 2018/19 as set out in **Appendix A** is approved by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority for inclusion into the Statement of Accounts.

## APPENDICES ATTACHED

20. **Appendix A** – Annual Governance Statement for Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

*Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework – 2016 Edition*  
*CIPFA and SOLACE*

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