



**HAMPSHIRE
FIRE AND
RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Standards and Governance Committee

Purpose: Approval

Date: 23 July 2020

Title: **ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE 2019/20**

Report of Chief Fire Officer

SUMMARY

1. The Annual Statement of Assurance is a document that is required by the National Framework for Fire and Rescue (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 2019 to March 2020.
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.

BACKGROUND

4. The Fire and Rescue National Framework published in May 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 SAFETY 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 so *Together we make life safer*. This is mirrored in the creation and content of our strategic priorities (contained within the previous Service Plan and the new Safety Plan moving forward).

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 environmental or sustainability impacts associated with this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9. Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority must produce an Annual Statement of Assurance to ensure compliance with the Fire and Rescue National Framework published in May 2018.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

OPTIONS

11. Members are asked to approve the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority Annual Statement of Assurance for 2019/20. It is a requirement of the 2018 National Fire and Rescue Framework that each Fire and Rescue Authority publishes an Annual Statement of Assurance to detail to its stakeholders how it is meeting its statutory obligations. The approval and publication of the statement ensures compliance with the National Fire and Rescue Framework 2018.

RISK ANALYSIS

12. 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

13. The Annual Statement of Assurance for 2019/20 provides stakeholders with oversight of Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service's ability to deliver its core purpose that *Together we make life safer*, and therefore meet the requirements of the 2018 National Fire and Rescue Framework.

RECOMMENDATION

14. That the Annual Assurance Statement for 2019/20 be approved by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority Standards and Governance Committee.

APPENDICES ATTACHED

15. Appendix A – Annual Statement of Assurance 2020

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