



**HAMPSHIRE
FIRE AND
RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Purpose: Approved

Date **15 SEPTEMBER 2017**

Title **ANNUAL ASSURANCE STATEMENT**

Report of Chief Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Authority has a responsibility to publish a Statement of Assurance on an annual basis as part of the Fire and Rescue National Framework requirements. The Statement sets out the approach to ensure the appropriate arrangements are in place in terms of governance and operational delivery, going beyond the scope of the Annual Governance Statement. It is published on the Service's website with a series of links to enable it to be publicly available and maintained up to date.
2. The draft Statement for 2017 is attached in appendix 1 for Members' comment and approval.

BACKGROUND

3. **The requirements of the Fire and Rescue National Framework**
 - 3.1 The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England, 2012, sets out a requirement for fire and rescue services to publish Statements of Assurance. It says:

‘Fire and rescue authorities must provide annual assurance on financial, governance and operational matters and show how they have had due regard to the expectations set out in their integrated risk management plan and the requirements included in the Framework. To provide assurance, fire and rescue authorities must publish an annual statement of assurance.’
 - 3.2 After considering the guidance, in 2013 the Authority agreed that its Assurance Statement should consist of summary documents such as the Service plan and our annual performance report, with references and hyperlinks to *signpost* the reader to more detailed sources of reference if they require it, rather than writing one long document. This method enables us to ensure that information is more dynamic and up to date.

- 3.3 The Statement includes three sections, financial, governance (including transparency) and operational. A review of the Statement is made on an annual basis and presented to the Standards and Governance Committee.

SUPPORTING OUR SERVICE PLAN AND PRIORITIES

- 4 As the Authority is accountable to its local communities, the Authority needs to be transparent about decisions and actions taken, and engage with communities so local people can scrutinise and influence service delivery. Publication of information to our community will enable this engagement.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5 The requirements set out in this report have been met within current resources.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6 As reported in paragraph 1 above, the preparation and publication of the Annual Assurance Statement is a requirement of the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England.

PEOPLE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

RISK ANALYSIS

- 8 Failing to comply with the requirements will reduce our transparency and could ultimately result in government intervention.

RECOMMENDATION

- 9 That the Annual Assurance Statement 2017 is received and approved by the Committee.

APPENDICES ATTACHED

- 10 Appendix 1 - Annual Assurance Statement 2017

BACKGROUND PAPERS

11 Fire and rescue national framework for England, DCLG, 2012

Guidance on statements of assurance for fire and rescue authorities in England, DCLG, May 2013

Chief Fire Officers Association circular 2013/10 - Annual Statement of Assurance March 2013

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