

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE
DATE: 31ST JANUARY 2018
REPORT OF: DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND COMMISSIONING
AUTHOR: CHRIS ASTALL

SUBJECT: STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE - ACTION PLAN
PROGRESS UPDATE 2017-18

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with an update on the small number of actions identified in the Statement of Assurance Action Plan 2017-18.

Recommended: that Members

[1] note the attached progress report.

Background

2. The 'Fire and Rescue National Framework for England', 2012 (the National Framework) includes a requirement for fire and rescue authorities to, "...provide assurance on financial, governance and operational matters and show how they have had due regard of the expectations set out in their Integrated Risk Management Plan and the requirements included in this Framework." In order to do so authorities are required to publish a Statement of Assurance annually.
3. The Statement of Assurance 2016-17 also included the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) which highlighted a small number of governance areas for improvement during 2017-18 and an action plan was put in place to address the issues. The Action Plan is attached as Appendix 1 to this report and contains a progress update on three areas highlighted for improvement.

Information

4. In June 2017 the Governance and Constitution Committee was presented with the initial draft of the Statement of Assurance 2016-17 which highlighted a few areas for improvement.
5. Given the small number of areas identified, it was agreed that Members would receive an update on progress every six months.

6. It is anticipated that the way the Statement of Assurance is prepared could change as a result of the new inspection regime.

Financial Implications

7. There are no financial implications.

Legal Implications

8. There are no specific legal implications.

Equality and Diversity Implications

9. There are no differential impacts on any particular section of the community arising from this report.

Environmental Implications

10. There are no specific impacts on the environment arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS: None

Appendix 1 – Statement of Assurance Action Plan