

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY
DATE: 18TH JULY 2018
REPORT OF: DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND COMMISSIONING
AUTHOR: CHRIS ASTALL

SUBJECT: ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE 2017-18

Purpose of Report

1. To present Members with the Annual Statement of Assurance 2017-18 for approval.

Recommended: that Members

- [1] approve the Annual Statement of Assurance 2017-18.

Background

2. The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England 2012 required the Authority to publish an Annual Statement of Assurance that:
'must provide 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 this [Fire and Rescue National] Framework.'
3. The 2012 document has recently been superseded by the 2018 National Framework. The 2018 version has altered the requirements for the Annual Statement of Assurance and will be taken into account when the Statement of Assurance is prepared for 2018-19. For 2017-18 the 2012 document, which applied throughout the year, has been considered in preparing the Statement of Assurance.
4. The Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework was published by CIPFA, in association with Solace, in 2007. It sets the standard for local authority governance and is used as guidance when producing the Statement of Assurance. It was reviewed in 2015 to ensure it remained 'fit for purpose' and a revised edition was published in 2016.
5. The Authority previously agreed to combine production of the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) with the Statement of Assurance as the

majority of compliance information and evidence is required for both documents.

6. A draft version of the Statement of Assurance was considered by Governance and Constitution Committee earlier this month.

Information

7. The Authority currently fulfils its financial and governance assurance requirements through the production and validation of the Annual Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) (which include associated controls, scrutiny and audits). The AGS forms part of the Statement.
8. The Annual Statement of Assurance for 2017-18 is attached as Appendix 1 to the report. The AGS can be found in Section 3. In the interests of transparency all compliance and assurance documentation and other relevant links and signposts will be accessible directly from the Service's website.

Financial Implications

9. There are no significant financial implications other than staff time involved in research and evidence gathering.

Legal Implications

10. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

Equality and Diversity Implications

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

Environmental Implications

12. There are no specific environmental implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS: None

Appendix 1 – Statement of Assurance 2017-18