

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE
DATE: 11TH APRIL 2018
REPORT OF: DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND COMMISSIONING
AUTHOR: CHRIS ASTALL

SUBJECT: PREPARATION OF STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE
2017-18

Purpose of Report

1. To present Members with information about the timelines and process for the preparation of the Statement of Assurance 2017-18

Recommended

[1] That Members note the report.

Background

2. Members will be aware that one of the requirements of the *Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (2012)* is the publication of 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 Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework* was published by CIPFA in association with Solace in 2007 and sets the standard for local authority governance. The Framework was reviewed in 2015 to ensure it remained ‘fit for purpose’ and a revised edition was published in 2016. A summary of the revised Principles A-G is attached to the report as Appendix 1. A summary of a locally developed Principle H related to the Fire and Rescue National Framework is attached to the report as Appendix 2.
4. The Authority agreed to combine production of the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) with the Statement of Assurance as a lot of the compliance information and evidence required is common to both.

Information

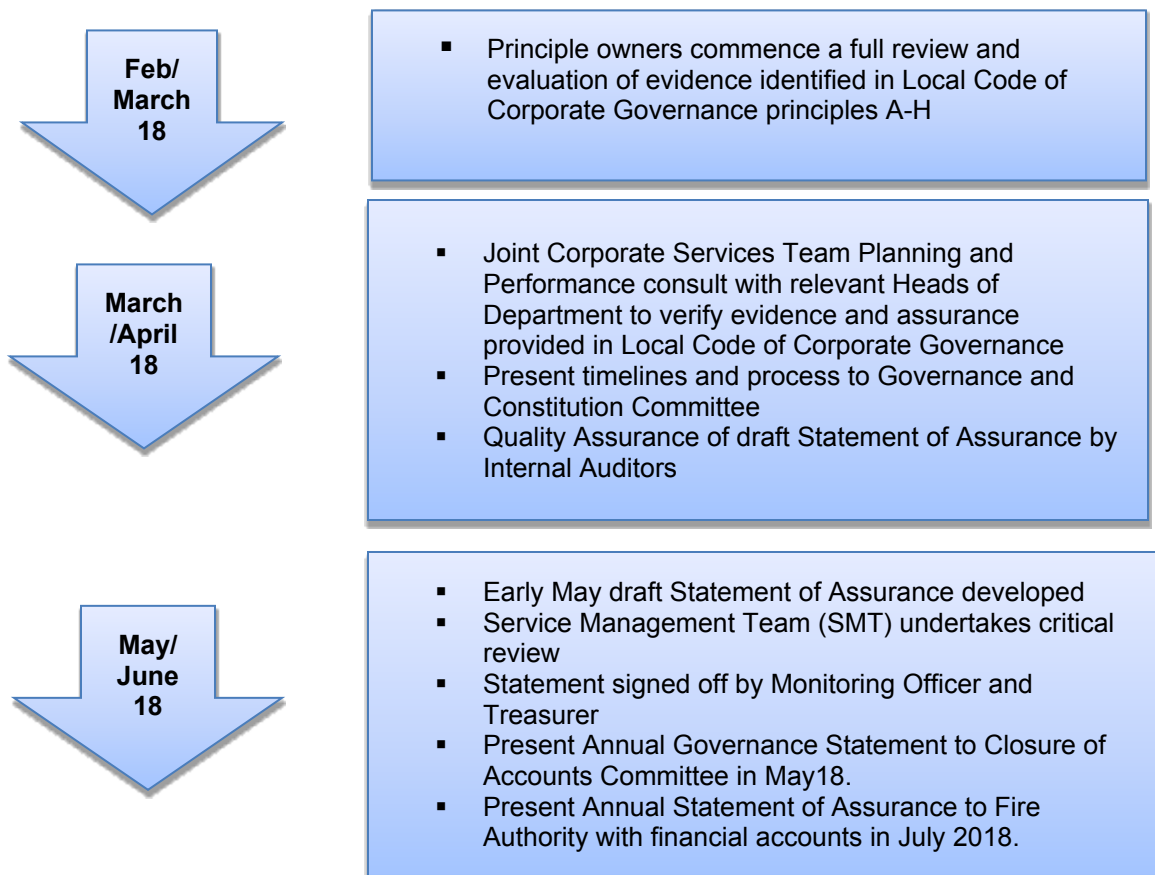
Local Code of Corporate Governance

5. The Fire Authority has developed a 'Local Code of Corporate Governance Framework'. This framework provides a simple structure for monitoring compliance and assurance under the Principles A-G of the Code of Corporate Governance. The same process has been adopted for monitoring compliance with National Framework requirements, which is presented in the local code as Principle H.

Review, Evaluation and Development Process

6. The process to support the preparation of the Statement of Assurance is presented below. The joint corporate services team Planning and Performance has started evaluating and reviewing all evidence identified for Principles A – H with the owners.

The process mapped out below highlights the key steps and timelines for development and production of the Statement of Assurance 2017-18.



7. The Annual Governance Statement will be presented to Closure of Accounts Committee in May 2018 for approval before being included in the

full Statement of Assurance which is presented to the Fire Authority in July 2018 with the Statement of Accounts.

Financial Implications

8. There are no significant financial implications other than staff time involved in research, evidence gathering and publication. This has been minimised by bringing together the two assurance processes.

Legal Implications

9. The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England sets out the Government's priorities and objectives for fire and rescue authorities and contains requirements concerned with governance in its broadest sense. This includes the publication of an annual Statement of Assurance.

Equality & Diversity Implications

10. There are no differential impacts on any particular section of the community arising from this report. Any issues relating to the publication and communication of the publication have been considered as part of the full equality impact assessment carried out on the Corporate Consultation and Engagement Strategy.

Environmental Implications

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

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE

Appendix 1 & 2 - Delivering Good Governance Principles A-H