

# CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

**MEETING OF:** GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE  
**DATE:** 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2018  
**REPORT OF:** DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND COMMISSIONING  
**AUTHOR:** CHRIS ASTALL

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**SUBJECT:** DRAFT STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE 2017-18

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## Purpose of Report

1. To give Members an opportunity to review the draft Statement of Assurance 2017-18.

**Recommended:** that Members

- [1] Review the draft 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 The 2012 document has recently been superseded by the 2018 National Framework.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 is prepared for 2018-19. For 2017-18 the 2012 document, which applied throughout the year, has been considered in preparing the Statement.
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. The framework was reviewed in 2015 to ensure it remains '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. The AGS can be located in Section 3 of the Statement of Assurance.

## **Information**

6. One of the principal aims of the Statement of Assurance is to provide a simple and accessible way in which communities, government, local authorities and partners may make a valid assessment of their local fire authority's performance.
7. As mentioned previously, the Authority uses the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework to assist in gathering and presenting evidence in relation to financial and governance matters. The revised version of this Framework was published in 2016 and feedback from CIPFA/Solace gave an opportunity to refresh the format of the Statement of Assurance and AGS.

### *Statement of Assurance Preparation*

8. The preparation process and timelines for the development and production of the Statement of Assurance were presented to the Governance and Constitution Committee in April 2018. The Committee also received a summary of the Local Code of Corporate Governance Framework Principles A-H.

## **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 & 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 – Draft Statement of Assurance 2017-18