

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY
DATE: 18 SEPTEMBER 2019
REPORT OF: CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE
AUTHOR: LYNN MARSH

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

Purpose of Report

1. This report seeks approval to publish the Annual Report for 2018-19 which incorporates statutory information on the annual Statement of Accounts together with summary information on key areas of Service performance during the last financial year.
2. Proofs of the newspaper-style report will be shared amongst Members at the meeting and each Member will be sent an electronic copy.

Recommended: That

- [1] Subject to Members' comments, the Annual Report 2018–19 is approved for publication.

Background

3. The Authority must publish certain information about its accounts and governance arrangements. Reference is made to this information in the Annual Report.
4. The Authority is also required to comply with the requirements of the Fire and Rescue National Framework concerned with the provision of information to communities about its performance. The publication of the Annual Report helps the Authority to meet these obligations. It is also required to produce an annual Statement of Assurance.
5. The Authority prepared and distributed the Annual Report for a number of years in a newspaper style delivered to every household in Cheshire. Last year it was only published online.

Information

6. The Fire Authority is committed to keeping its residents, businesses and key stakeholders informed about the development of its services and policies and its performance against its published plans.

7. The content of the Annual Report includes details about key areas of Service performance compared over time and against similar fire and rescue services, together with a summary of the Statement of Accounts.
8. A draft of the Annual Report has now been produced, with an electronic copy due to be published on the Service's website by 30 September – the statutory deadline for publication of the Statement of Accounts. Publication will be announced through the Service's social media channels and via mainstream media.

Financial Implications

9. There are no financial implications as the Annual Report is published online, as agreed by Members in 2018.

Legal Implications

10. The Service has a statutory requirement to publish its summary of accounts. There is no legal requirement to print and distribute an Annual Report.

Equality and Diversity Implications

11. The Annual Report will be made available in other formats on request.

Environmental Implications

12. There are no environmental implications.