

# CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

**MEETING OF:** PERFORMANCE AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE  
**DATE:** 8 SEPTEMBER 2021  
**REPORT OF:** HEAD OF SERVICE DELIVERY  
**AUTHOR:** BEV HUGHES

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**SUBJECT:** UNITARY PERFORMANCE GROUPS, ANNUAL  
REPORT 2020-21

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## Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with an update on the initiatives supported and funded by the Unitary Performance Groups (UPGs) during 2020-21.

## Recommended: That

- [1] Members note the contents of the report.

## Background

2. The Service has UPGs for Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Halton and Warrington.
3. UPG meetings provide an opportunity for local Fire Authority Members to engage with officers from Service Delivery and Prevention and Protection to scrutinise performance at a local level. The UPG also develops initiatives which can help to improve performance and outcomes for the communities within each unitary area. UPGs have budgets allocated to enable them to consider and approve funding bids within their areas.

## Information

4. Appendix 1 to the report contains details of some of the initiatives supported and funded by the UPGs during 2020-21.

## Financial Implications

5. The main financial implication for Members to consider is the fact that UPG budgets are consistently underspent each year. Each of the four UPG's have a budget of £25k (£100k total) and any underspends are transferred to a central corporate pot which had a closing balance of £162.2k at the end of 2020/21. The 2020/21 UPG unspent balance totals £61.9k across all four UPGs. This underspend will be transferred to the corporate pot.

## **Legal Implications**

6. Members have a fiduciary duty. This committee plays an important part in reviewing the activities that have been supported by the UPGs.

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

7. Several projects highlighted within the UPG Annual Report have a central theme to widen access and promote inclusion for people deemed 'at risk' in our communities. The majority of the projects are countywide which benefit a wide range of people. Where projects are targeting people in specific locations, they bring a benefit to these 'at risk' people as a result of their disability (or long term health condition) or age (i.e. older people, school age children).

## **Environmental Implications**

8. There are no known environmental implications.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS: APPENDIX 1, UPG INITIATIVES 2020-21**