

Report to Fire and Rescue Service Scrutiny Committee

12 June 2023

West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service Annual Statement of Assurance

Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Summary

Fire and rescue authorities must provide assurance on financial, governance and operational matters and show how they have had due regard to the expectations set out in their Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) for 2022/2023. Statements of assurance should be open and transparent, demonstrating accountability to communities who expect to know how these services are being provided. The document at Appendix B outlines the way in which the West Sussex Fire & Rescue Authority and its fire and rescue service delivered the requirements contained in the National Fire and Rescue Framework and the authority's CRMP during 2022/2023.

Focus for scrutiny

The Committee is asked to consider the report at the appendix and provide feedback to Cabinet.

Key lines of enquiry include:

- 1) Whether it provides assurance to members that the requirements of the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework for England have been met.
- 2) If the performance and governance arrangements, as well as the steps taken to progress the strategic aims set out in the Community Risk Management Plan have been addressed adequately.
- 3) Identification of any specific areas for action or response by the relevant Cabinet Member.

The Chairman will summarise the output of the debate for consideration by the Committee.

1. Background and context

- 1.1 The background and context of this item for scrutiny are set out in the appended report (listed below), including resource and risk implications, Equality, Human Rights, Social Value, Sustainability and Crime and Disorder Reduction Assessments.

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Appendices

Appendix A: West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service Annual Statement of Assurance
2022/23 Decision Report

Appendix B: West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service Annual Statement of Assurance
2022-23

Background Papers

None