

Environment, Communities and Fire Select Committee

Date 20 June 2019

Fire and Rescue Service Annual Statement of Assurance 2018-19
Fire and Rescue Service Annual Report May 2017-18

Report by the Chief Fire Officer

Summary

The Fire Authority is required under the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (updated and published in May 2018) to produce an annual statement of assurance to give assurance that the FRA is in compliance with the National Framework as set out by the Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service.

The Annual Statement of Assurance details the following:

- Finance details
- Governance
- Operational performance
- Framework requirements
- Future improvements

The Service also produces the annual report that details how the service delivers its vision and plans and reports on the progress made in the last year.

Two draft documents have been produced for the financial year 2018 -19.

- West Sussex Fire and Rescue Statement of Assurance 2018-19
- West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service Annual Report 2018-19

The focus for scrutiny

The Committee is asked to scrutinise the FRS Draft Annual Statement of Assurance and Draft Annual Report, and provide comments to the Cabinet Member.

Proposal

1. Background and Context

- 1.1 Producing an annual statement and report is a statutory requirement for all Fire and Rescue Authorities under the National Framework for Fire and Rescue England 2018.

The framework states:

'Fire and rescue authorities must provide annual 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 the Framework. To provide assurance, fire and rescue authorities must publish an annual statement of assurance’.

- 1.2 Under the framework the statement of assurance should contain detail on governance arrangements, operational performance, financials and future Improvements
- 1.3 Fire authorities are accountable for their performance and should be open to evaluation to the communities they serve. Information should be accurate and transparent, robust and fit for purpose.
- 1.4 One of the principal aims of the Statement of Assurance is to provide an accessible way in which communities, government, local authorities and other partners may make a valid assessment of their local fire and rescue authority’s performance.
- 1.5 The Statement of Assurance will be used as a source of information on which to base the Secretary of State’s biennial report under section 25 of the Fire and Rescue Act 2004
- 1.6 Statements of Assurance should be published annually by fire and rescue authorities.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 Under the direction of the Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities, West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, within West Sussex County Council, have prepared a draft statement of assurance and annual report for 2018-19.
- 2.2 In accordance with the requirements contained in the National Framework the documents covers the following:

Statement of Assurance

- Legislation relating to Fire and Rescue
- Finance details
- Governance
- Managing Risk
- Annual Operational Performance report
- IRMP action plan delivery

Annual Report

- An introduction into the county
- The Fire and Rescue Leadership team
- Our responsibilities
- The Integrated Risk Management Plan
- Your Fire and Rescue Service
- Prevention
- Protection
- Response

- Incidents of note
- People
- Integration and collaboration
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services.
- Events of note
- Awards
- What people thought about us

3. Resources

- 3.1 Following the publication of the reports the Fire and Rescue Service will be monitoring performance through the quarterly performance review and will publish subsequent action plans to drive performance improvement. The Business Planning Group of this Committee also considers a performance report at each of its quarterly meetings.

Factors taken into account

4. Issues for consideration by the Select Committee

- 4.1 There are no issues identified

5. Consultation

- 5.1 There is no public or staff consultation required for the reports.
- 5.2 Key teams within the County Council have been consulted to provide evidence and data to write this report.
- 5.3 The Cabinet Member the fire and rescue service has been consulted during the writing of this report.

6. Risk Management Implications

- 6.1 Production and delivery of open and transparent documentation satisfies the National Fire and Rescue Framework for England. Once approved the documents will be displayed alongside previous Statements of Assurance and annual reports for public viewing.

7. Other Options Considered

- 7.1 The statement of Assurance and Annual Report are statutory duties. Therefore no other options were considered.

8. Equality Duty

8.1 There are no equalities issues relating to these reports

9. Social Value

9.1 There are no procurements involved in this exercise which would be subject to social value requirements.

9.2 In terms of environmental sustainability, the IRMP makes clear the Authority's commitment to reducing the environmental impact of its operations, and provides an indication of work done to date.

10. Crime and Disorder Implications

10.1 No Impacts in this area

11. Human Rights Implications

11.1 No Impacts in this area

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Appendices

Appendix A: West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service Statement of Assurance 2018-19

Appendix B: West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service Annual Report 2018-19

Background Reports:

None