

For Publication

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority
7 September 2021

REPORT AUTHOR: ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

SUBJECT: STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE 2020-21

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Background Papers: None

Implications (tick ✓):

LEGAL		✓	FINANCIAL	
HUMAN RESOURCES			EQUALITY IMPACT	
ENVIRONMENTAL			POLICY	
CORPORATE RISK	Known		OTHER (please specify)	
	New			

Any implications affecting this report are noted at the end of the report.

PURPOSE:

To present to members the Annual Statement of Assurance for 2020-21 for approval.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Members acknowledge the contents of the Statement of Assurance for 2020-2021.
2. Approval by the Audit and Standards Committee.

3. Upon approval, presentation to the Full Fire and Rescue Authority meeting by the Chair of the Audit and Standards committee.
4. Publication on the Service's website.

1. Background

- 1.1 Under the Fire and Rescue National Framework (England) 2018 Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority (BFRA) have a responsibility to publish an Annual Statement of Assurance which provides a report on the Service's performance in the previous year.
- 1.2 The Statement of Assurance reports on performance in regard to financial, governance and operational assurance arrangements.
- 1.3 The Statement of Assurance is required to be published annually and where possible form part of the existing governance reporting arrangements. The Statement of Assurance is subject to normal scrutiny arrangements which comprise of:
 - Approval by the Audit & standards Committee;
 - Presentation to the Full Fire and Rescue Authority Meeting by the Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee; and
 - Published on the Service's website.
- 1.4 Members will recall that the Annual report was presented at the full Fire Authority meeting on the 7 September 2021 which will include a link to this Statement of Assurance to provide specific details of the performance of the service and evidence of the wide variety of work carried out across Bedfordshire in 2020-21.
- 1.5 The Statement of Assurance is attached as Appendix A.

ALISON KIBBLEWHITE
ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE OFFICER