
SUBJECT: STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE

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Background Papers:

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 Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) and the requirements included in the **Framework**. ([view previous statements](#))

There are a number of guidance publications regarding how a fire and rescue service should complete their statement ([Click to view guidance](#))

The Statement of Assurance aims to provide information to the Communities, Government, Local Authorities and Partners in an easy and accessible way, so a valid assessment can be made of their local Fire and Rescue Authority's performance during 2022/23

Appendix	Title	Protective Marking
1	Statement of Assurance	N/A

Implications

This table provides a short statement of the impact of the recommendations in this report and/or a reference to the relevant paragraph/s in the report.

Will this report affect any of the following?

	Yes / No	Impact / Reference
Financial Implications	Y	<p>The statement includes the services financial management arrangements As a public service the Authority are responsible for ensuring that public money is properly accounted for and spent in a way that provides value for money.</p> <p>In addition to the statutory requirement to publish annual financial results, the government is committed to increasing transparency across local authorities. One of the steps in this process is for the publication online of information relating to spend items in excess of £500. In accordance with that requirement, the Authority is publishing monthly schedules of payments, which can be found on our website</p>
Risk Management	Y	The Statement of Assurance explains how the service will manage risk within the community, there are sections relating to prevention, protection and response outlining how the service will manage risk of fire to the community
Legal Implications	N	
Privacy and Security Implications	N	
Duty to Collaborate	Y	The Policing and Crime Act 2017 requires the Authority to consider opportunities for collaboration with the police and ambulance services. This statement outlines the various collaboration opportunities that the service is undertaking.
Health and Safety Implications	N	
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	Y	This statement sets out the services commitment to meet our statutory obligation under the equality act (2010).
Consultation and Communication	Y	Relevant stakeholders have written their own respective areas of the report and are happy with its contents. If the report is accepted by this group it will be passed to communications for presentation to be addressed and uploaded to the website if required.

PURPOSE:

To present to members the Annual Statement of Assurance for 2022/23 for approval.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Members:

1. Acknowledge the contents of the Statement of Assurance for 2022/23
 2. Recommend, to the Full Fire and Rescue Authority, approval of the Statement of Assurance for publication on the Service's website
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1. Executive Summary

- 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 regards 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 & Standards Committee; and
 - Publication on the Service's website

GAVIN CHAMBERS
ASSISTANT CHIEF OFFICER