



REPORT TITLE: Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service 2021-2022 Statement of Assurance

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| Dates between which decision will be taken | Earliest date: 12 January 2023 Latest date: 31 January 2023 |
| Cabinet Member | Cllr Dave Norman, Cabinet Member for Fire, Community Safety & Libraries |
| Key Decision | No |
| Purpose of Report | To provide communities with assurance in respect of the governance and delivery of the Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service during the period 2021-22, as required by Fire and Rescue National Framework for England. |
| Recommendations | To approve the adoption and subsequent publication of the 2021-2022 Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service Statement of Assurance. |
| Reasons for recommendations | The Council is the Fire and Rescue Authority for Gloucestershire. It has a statutory duty to publish an annual Statement of Assurance to enable members of the public to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the Fire and Rescue Service. |
| Resource Implications | This decision has no additional resource implications as the principal purpose of the Statement of Assurance is to act as a monitoring report. The production and verification of the Statement of Assurance is a responsibility resourced within existing budgets. |

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| Background Documents | <p>'Fire and Rescue National Framework for England' Published by the Home Office in May 2018.</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/705060/National_Framework_-_final_for_web.pdf</p> <p>'Guidance on statements of assurance for fire and rescue authorities in England', published by DCLG in May 2013.</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/198812/130510_Guidance_on_Statements_of_Assurance.pdf</p> |
| Statutory Authority | <p>Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004</p> |
| Divisional Councillor(s) | <p>All</p> |
| Officer | <p>Any representations should be sent to:</p> <p>Mark Preece, Chief Fire Officer</p> <p>Mark.Preece@glosfire.gov.uk</p> <p>By 5pm on 11 January 2023</p> |
| Timeline | <p>It is proposed that the GFRS Statement of Assurance 2021-22 is published during December 2022.</p> |

MAIN REPORT CONTENTS

Background

1. Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service (GFRS) is an integral part of Gloucestershire County Council. As the Fire and Rescue Authority the council has a statutory duty, under the National Framework, to publish an annual Statement of Assurance. This is a monitoring document designed to allow the public to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the Fire and Rescue Service.
2. The main aims of the Statement of Assurance are:
 - To provide assurance to communities and to government on financial, governance and operational matters
 - To demonstrate compliance with the National Framework; and
 - To report progress with delivery of the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP).
3. The 2021/22 document has been prepared in accordance with guidance.
4. The Statement of Assurance is now recommended for adoption and publication on the council and GFRS web sites.

Options

5. The Fire and Rescue Authority is required by law to produce a Statement of Assurance.

Risks

6. The Statement of Assurance draws together retrospective performance and financial information, which is already in the public domain. Therefore it is considered that the production and publication of the document is low risk.

Financial implications

7. The production of the Statement of Assurance is a responsibility resourced within existing budgets. The report produced presents retrospective information already available to the public and is low risk to any financial implications.

Climate change implications

8. The Statement of Assurance will be online only so has no impact on Climate Change.

Equality implications

Has an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) been completed? No

9. The Statement of Assurance is a retrospective document that reports on activities that, where appropriate, have been the subject of due regard considerations. It does, however, include an analysis of workforce equality data.

Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) implications

10. There is no sensitive data within the statement of assurance and is a retrospective report using information already available to the public.

Social value implications

11. This statement of assurance is produced to demonstrate to the communities of Gloucestershire how the Fire and Rescue Service, on behalf of the Fire and Rescue Authority (Gloucestershire County Council), has in the last twelve months met and will continue to deliver on our mission.

Consultation feedback

12. This is a retrospective document, and no policy decisions are being taken. There is no statutory duty to consult as this is a record of historical events and performance rather than a statement of future policy. Advice from the Council's internal support services has been sought in relation to the content of this report.

Officer recommendations

13. The recommendation is that the Cabinet Member for Fire, Community Safety & Libraries approves the adoption and subsequent publication of the 2021-2022 Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service Statement of Assurance as appended to this report.

Performance management/follow-up

14. Throughout the year the performance of Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service is reported to the Cabinet Member and Leader of the Council, and through the Quarterly Strategic Performance Report to Cabinet and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.