



MEETING: GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE 29 SEPTEMBER 2023

SUBJECT: STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE 2022/2023

**JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE (THE CLERK
TO THE AUTHORITY) THE FINANCE DIRECTOR AND THE PERSONNEL
ADVISOR TO THE AUTHORITY**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority) is required to prepare an annual Statement of Assurance in accordance with the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England 2018.
- 1.2 The Statement of Assurance 2022/2023 demonstrates how the Authority met the requirements of the National Framework 2018; focusing on the governance, financial, and operational activity that took place between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023.
- 1.3 The Statement provides a comprehensive overview of how the Authority maintained high standards and fulfilled its statutory duties and is attached as Appendix A.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Each fire and rescue authority in England has to provide sufficient assurance they are acting in accordance with the National Framework 2018.
- 2.2 Section 25 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament every 2 years on:
 - a) the extent to which FRAs are acting in accordance with the National Framework; and
 - b) any steps taken by the Secretary for the purpose of securing that fire and rescue authorities act in accordance with the Framework.
- 2.3 By producing a Statement of Assurance, the Authority is providing information to the communities of Tyne and Wear, the Government, local authorities, and partners, which will allow them to make a valid assessment of the Authority's performance during 2022/2023.
- 2.4 The Statement of Assurance is a source of information used by the Secretary of State for their biennial report.

3 STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE 2022/2023

- 3.1 The Statement of Assurance 2022/2023, confirms that the business of the Authority has been conducted in accordance with good governance standards and that public money has been accurately accounted for.
- 3.2 The systems and processes in place within the Authority, many of which have been scrutinised internally and by external agencies, are sufficiently robust to assure the Authority's governance, and financial and operational arrangements.
- 3.3 The Authority has and continues to operate effectively, efficiently, and with a focus on fair and equitable practices that support the workforce and the communities of Tyne and Wear.

4 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 The Statement of Assurance does not present any risks to the Authority as it demonstrates appropriate governance arrangements are in place.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The publication of the Statement of Assurance supports the Authority to ensure the effective and efficient use of resources, providing value for money to the public.

6 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no equality and fairness implications in respect of the Statement of Assurance. The Statement contains details of the Authority's approach to equality, diversity, and inclusion.

7 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no health and safety implications in respect of the Statement of Assurance. The Statement contains details of the Authority's approach to health and safety.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Authority is recommended to:
 - a) Note the contents of this report
 - b) Endorse the Statement of Assurance 2022/2023 for presentation to the Fire Authority for approval on 16 October 2023.
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

The under mentioned background papers refer to the subject matter of the above report: None