

**TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**Item No. 6**

**MEETING: GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE 29 JULY 2022**

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**SUBJECT: STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE 2021/22**

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

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to present the Statement of Assurance 2021/22 to the Committee for their consideration, endorsement and progression to full Fire Authority for agreement to publish.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 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 (National Framework). The Authority is required to provide assurance on financial, governance and operational matters.
- 2.2 The Statement of Assurance 2021/22 is attached as Appendix A and sets out how the Authority meets the requirements of the National Framework and details evidence to support compliance.
- 2.3 Each fire and rescue authority in England is required to provide sufficient assurance that they are acting in accordance with the National Framework.
- 2.4 Section 25 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament every 2 years on:
- the extent to which fire and rescue authorities are acting in accordance with the National Framework; and
  - any steps taken for the purpose of securing that fire and rescue authorities act in accordance with the National Framework.
- 2.5 The Statement of Assurance is a source of information used by the Secretary of State for their biennial report.
- 2.6 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 2021/22.

### **3. STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE**

- 3.1 The Statement of Assurance provides information on financial, governance and operational performance during 2021/22, and includes details of how the Authority meets the requirements of the National Framework and details any future improvements, which are required to be undertaken.

### **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 Committee is recommended to:
- a) Note the contents of the Statement of Assurance.
  - b) Agree that they are satisfied the Statement of Assurance properly and accurately reflects the risk environment and that good governance arrangements for the fire and rescue service are in place.
  - c) Progress the Statement of Assurance to full Fire Authority for their approval in its current form.

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## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The under mentioned Background Papers refer to the subject matter of the above report:

- HM Government (2004) Fire and Rescue Services Act
- Home Office (2018) Fire and Rescue National Framework