

**TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**Item No 6**

**MEETING: 16 SEPTEMBER 2019**

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**SUBJECT: STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE AND ANNUAL REPORT (SOAAR)  
2018/19**

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

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**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to present the draft Statement of Assurance and Annual Report (SOAAR) 2018/19 (to be tabled on the day) to members for approval.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Fire and Rescue National Framework requires that Fire and Rescue Authorities must provide a SOAAR to its communities, Government, local authorities, partners and stakeholders. This report must provide an accessible account of the Authority's performance, effectiveness and value for money.
- 2.2 The SOAAR is also a source of information used by the Secretary of State for their biennial report under section 25 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.

**3. STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE AND ANNUAL REPORT**

- 3.1 The Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) SOAAR includes the following content:
- The statement of accounts
  - An annual governance statement
  - How the Authority meets the requirements of the National Framework
  - Details of consultation on strategic plans including the IRMP
  - Assurance regarding operational competence
  - Consideration to the principles of transparency (set out in the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency).
- 3.2 TWFRS has also made reference to documents within its SOAAR where the required information is already available in a clear, accessible and user friendly format.

## **4 HOW TWFRA PERFORMED**

- 4.1 Although the Authority still faces financial pressures, its workforce is committed to working with partners and supporting investment to deliver positive outcomes for all of its Tyne and Wear communities.
- 4.2 The SOAAR highlights that during 2018/19:
- The Control room has received over 29,700 calls
  - Our Prevention and Education team has delivered over 24,600 Home Safety Checks
  - Our Fire Safety team has carried out 1,700 fire safety audits on commercial premises
  - Based on the latest Home Office figures, we have the second fastest response rate of any metropolitan fire services to dwelling fires.

## **5 RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 5.1 There are no risks associated with publishing the SOAAR. We have worked closely with internal and external audit throughout the year on our financial and governance positions.

## **6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 This report has no direct financial implications. The SOAAR contains a retrospective picture of expenditure in 2018/19.

## **7 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no equality and fairness implications in respect of this report. The SOAAR contains a retrospective picture of our approach to equality, diversity and inclusion in 2018/19.

## **8 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no health and safety implications in respect of this report. The SOAAR contains a retrospective picture of our approach to health and safety in 2018/19.

## **9 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 The Authority is recommended to:
- a) Review the content of this report
  - b) Approve the draft SOAAR 2018/19

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## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

- July 2019 - Governance Committee Audited Statement of Accounts
- June 2019 - Fire Authority Annual Governance Review 2018/2019

