

## Annual Review 2016/17

### Report of the Chief Fire Officer

For further information about this report please contact Rod Hammerton, Chief Fire Officer, on 01743 260201 or Louise McKenzie, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, on 01743 260205.

### 1 Purpose of Report

This report presents the draft Annual Review (also known as the Annual Statement of Assurance) for 2016/17 and gives the Committee an opportunity to make comment on the draft, prior to its going forward to the full Fire Authority for consideration and approval.

### 2 Recommendation

The Committee is asked to comment upon the draft Annual Review 2016/17.

### 3 Background

A National Framework for the Fire and Rescue Service has been in existence since 2004 and has been regularly revised. During 2012 the Coalition Government published a new Fire and Rescue National Framework, which placed particular requirements on the Fire Authority regarding the development and publication of an Annual Review.

With Fire and Rescue Authorities ultimately accountable to their local communities, the Framework states that they need to be transparent about decisions and actions taken, and engage with communities, so local people can scrutinise and influence service delivery. They should also ensure that local communities can access information to compare the performance of their Authority with that of others.

The Annual Review is the means by which the Authority is required to communicate such information clearly. It is in effect a report, which looks back at the last financial year and explains the Fire Authority's objectives, performance, risks and initiatives, along with its plans for the future. It also acts as a signposting document to other information, which may be of interest to the audience. Last year, for the first time, this was posted on the Service's website, rather than produced as a printed document.

#### **4 Electronic document Annual Review 2016/17**

In past years, a paper draft of the Annual Review has been attached as an appendix to this report. This year, for the first time the Service has realised its ambition of creating this as an electronic document.

Using the industry standard software available to us as a result of our systems investments we have been able to produce an electronic version of the Annual Review using software already available to us. This will be published on the Service's website and intranet.

Members can view the 2016/17 Annual Review by [clicking here](#)

#### **5 Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

#### **6 Legal Comment**

Section 21 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 provides the statutory authority for the Fire Service National Framework and requires fire authorities to have regard to the Framework in carrying out their functions. The proposed Annual Review addresses the requirements of the Framework (and associated Government guidance), but should not be considered as representing a 'qualified' statement or opinion regarding the Authority's or Service's performance. There are currently no Government arrangements in place to verify formally Annual Reviews / Annual Statements of Assurance.

#### **7 Initial Impact Assessment**

An Initial Impact Assessment has been completed.

#### **8 Appendix**

There are no appendices to this report.

#### **9 Background Papers**

There are no background papers associated with this report.