

Annual Report 2011/12

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

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1 Purpose of Report

This report asks Members to delegate approval of the Fire Authority's Annual Report 2011/12 to the Audit and Performance Management Committee.

2 Recommendations

The Fire Authority is asked to delegate final approval of the Annual Report 2011/12 to the Audit and Performance Management Committee.

3 Background

Historically all fire and rescue services were required by the Local Government Act 1999 to prepare and publish an annual Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP). These requirements were changed following the introduction of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The Act deregulated the Best Value regime and thereby removed the requirement to produce a BVPP. These changes were reported to the Fire Authority on 13 February 2008.

The Fire Authority, at its February 2012 meeting, agreed the Medium Term Corporate Plan 2012 to 2017, which incorporates all elements of service, financial and improvement planning. This is supplemented by a forward-looking annual Service Plan, which came into effect on 1 April 2012. The Service Plan is supported by a backward-looking Annual Report.

Members have previously (February 2012) delegated authority to the Audit and Performance Management Committee to receive the Statement of Accounts at its next meeting (6 September 2012), and the Committee has already received performance reports regarding the Public Value measures 2011/12. A summary of the agreed accounts and performance measures will be presented within the proposed Annual Report.

The Annual Report will be replaced in 2013 with a Statement of Assurance, as required within the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2012 (Draft).

4 Financial Implications

There are no costs associated with publicising the Annual Report as it is launched onto the Service website.

5 Legal Comment

The Fire and Rescue Service Act 2004 - Section 21, paragraph (7) - places a responsibility on all fire and rescue authorities to have regard to the National Framework in carrying out their functions. The current draft Framework states that they must publish an annual statement of assurance (paragraph 3.2). No finalised Framework or formal guidance has been issued to date regarding the expected style, content and layout of the statement of assurance.

6 Equality Impact Assessment

Officers have considered the Service's Brigade Order on Equality Impact Assessments (Human Resources 5 Part 2) and have determined that there are no discriminatory practices or differential impacts upon specific groups arising from this report. An Initial Equality Impact Assessment has not, therefore, been completed.

7 Appendices

There are no appendices attached to this report.

8 Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.