

Greater Manchester Police, Fire & Crime Panel

Date: 24th July 2023
Subject: GMFRS Annual Statement of Assurance 2022-23
Report of: DCFO Ben Norman
Report Author: Sarah Scoales, Head of Service Excellence

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this paper is for the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service's annual Statement of Assurance be approved for publication, in accordance with the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Members are asked to:

- Note the contents of this report and the Statement of Assurance for 2022/23, and subject to any amendments, approve this document for publication.

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Equalities Impact, Carbon, and Sustainability Assessment:

N/A

Risk Management

N/A

Legal Considerations

N/A

Financial Consequences - Capital

N/A

Financial Consequences - Revenue

N/A

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

- Annual Statement of Assurance 2021/22

1. The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (2018) placed a requirements on fire and rescue services (FRS) in England to provide annual assurance on financial, governance and operational matters, and show how they have due regard to the requirements included in the Framework.
2. To demonstrate this, the Framework requires that each Service much publish an annual Statement of Assurance.
3. One of the principal aims of the Statement of Assurance is to provide assurance to the Board, partners agencies, and the communities of Greater Manchester, that the Service is being run in accordance with appropriate governance, financial and operational standards.
4. In order to reduce duplication, the contents of existing documents have not been reproduced within the Statement of Assurance but have been signposted to the relevant document.

CONTENTS OF STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE

5. The content of the Service's Statement of Assurance covers the following detail:
 - **Operational Assurance:** Details information regarding legislative structures, our Integrated Risk Management Plan and consultation, operational preparedness, response and learning, resilience, cross-border, national resilience, and business continuity arrangements.
 - **Prevention and Protection Assurance:** Details risk-based approach to prevention and protection activity and compliance to legislative requirements.
 - **Financial Assurance:** Informs the assessment with regard to the Service's statement of accounts and associated structures, and the financial procedures adopted, collaborative working and NWFC.
 - **Governance:** Details including the current arrangements of the GMFRS and how we review the effectiveness of our governance framework, including the system of internal controls and the HMICFRS inspections.

- **Workforce:** Information regarding our people strategy, operational training and fitness, safety, health, and wellbeing procedures and processes, and our environmental policy.

NEXT STEPS

6. Following approval, the document will be published on the GMFRS website under our publication scheme page.