

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority
Standards, Audit and Performance Committee
24 September 2021

Annual Review 2020/21

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

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

1 Executive Summary

This report presents the draft Annual Review (also known as the Annual Statement of Assurance) for 2020/21 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 2020/21, prior to it being considered and approved by the Fire Authority.

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.

4 Electronic Document - Annual Review 2020/21

In 2017, for the first time the Service realised its ambition of creating this as an electronic document, rather than being produced on paper, and this was made available via our website.

As this proved successful, this year's Annual Review has also been produced using the same industry standard software available to us as a result of our systems investments and will once again be available via our public website.

Members can view the 2020/21 Draft Annual Review [by selecting this link](#)

5 Conclusions

The Committee is asked to comment upon the draft Annual Review 2020/21, prior to it going forward to the full Fire Authority for consideration and approval.

6 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7 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.

8 Equality Impact Assessment

There are no equality or diversity implications arising from this report. An e-EQIA is not, therefore, required.

9 Appendices

There are no appendices attached to this report.

10 Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.