

REPORT REFERENCE NO.	AGC/23/11
MEETING	AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING	21 JULY 2023
SUBJECT OF REPORT	DRAFT 2022-23 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE
LEAD OFFICER	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & CORPORATE SERVICES (TREASURER)
RECOMMENDATIONS	<i>That the draft Annual Statement of Assurance appended to this report - required to accompany the 2022-23 final accounts – be approved in principle subject to the caveats noted below and submitted to the External Auditor alongside the draft Statement of Accounts for the same financial year.</i>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>To comply with both Accounts and Audit Regulations and the Fire & Rescue Service National Framework, the Authority is required to produce and publish an Annual Statement of Assurance on financial, governance and operational matters and show how the Authority has had regard to both its Integrated Risk Management Plan (now Community Risk Management Plan) and the expectations in the Fire & Rescue Service National Framework.</p> <p>The Annual Statement of Assurance is primarily backward looking but also features an action plan to address, in the forthcoming financial year, any significant governance issues identified as part of the review process.</p> <p>The draft Annual Statement of Assurance for 2022-23 will be submitted, along with the draft 2022-23 Statement of Accounts, to the Authority’s external auditors for review.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to note that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2.2 on page 4 details that the Community Risk Management Plan will be reviewed annually with progress reports published on the Service’s website. The first annual review of the Community Risk Management Plan has been completed but at the point of preparing this report, had not yet been published. This will be confirmed before the final Annual Statement of Assurance is published. • Section 16 on page 17 is subject to completion of the external audit work.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Nil.

EQUALITY RISKS AND BENEFITS ANALYSIS	The contents of this report are considered compatible with existing equalities and human rights legislation.
APPENDICES	A. 2022-23 Annual Statement of Assurance DRAFT
BACKGROUND PAPERS	The Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015 (as amended) The Fire & Rescue Service National Framework for England