

REPORT REFERENCE NO.	AGC/24/12										
MEETING	AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE										
DATE OF MEETING	16 JULY 2024										
SUBJECT OF REPORT	DRAFT 2023-24 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE										
LEAD OFFICER	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,CORPORATE SERVICES										
RECOMMENDATIONS	<p>(a). <i>That the draft Annual Statement of Assurance appended to this report - required to accompany the 2023-24 final accounts – be approved in principle subject to the caveat that section 18 is subject to completion of the external audit work; and</i></p> <p>(b). <i>that the draft Annual Statement of Assurance be submitted to the External Auditor alongside the draft Statement of Accounts for the same financial year.</i></p>										
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 2023-24 will be submitted, along with the draft 2023-24 Statement of Accounts, to the Authority’s external auditors for review.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to note that section 18 on page 19 is subject to completion of the external audit work.</p> <p>Progress in delivering the action plan at Appendix A is set out in the table below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Status</th> <th>Number of Actions</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>New action</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Completed</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>On Track</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Revised Timeline</td> <td>8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Status	Number of Actions	New action	1	Completed	3	On Track	6	Revised Timeline	8
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	<p>The actions with a revised timeline and the extensions applied are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Governance Strategy - 12 months. • Home Fire Safety Visits - 6 and 9 months. • Service Delivery Strategy - 6 months. • Phase 3 of the asset management project - 3 months. • Health & Safety - 6 months. • Implement the Target Operating Model and underpinning plans - 9 months. • People strategy - 3 months. <p>The revisions reflect a need to manage competing work priorities.</p>
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. 2023-24 Annual Statement of Assurance DRAFT
BACKGROUND PAPERS	The Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015 (as amended) The Fire & Rescue Service National Framework for England