

REPORT REFERENCE NO.	APRC/17/15
MEETING	AUDIT & PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING	12 SEPTEMBER 2017
SUBJECT OF REPORT	2016-17 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE
LEAD OFFICER	Head of Organisational Assurance
RECOMMENDATIONS	<i>That that the final Annual Statement of Assurance - required to accompany the 2016-17 final accounts – be approved and published on the Authority’s website.</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 showing how the Authority has had regard to both its Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) and the expectations in the 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>This Committee approved, in principle, the draft 2016-17 Annual Statement of Assurance at its meeting on 28 June 2017 (Minute *APRC/6 refers). The draft was submitted, along with the draft 2016-17 Statement of Accounts, to the Authority’s external auditors.</p> <p>No issues requiring amendment have been identified and consequently the final version of the 2016-17 Annual Statement of Assurance is now attached.</p>
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Nil.
EQUALITY RISKS AND BENEFITS ASSESSMENT (ERBA)	The contents of this report are considered compatible with existing equalities and human rights legislation.
APPENDICES	A. 2016-17 Final Annual Statement of Assurance
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS	Report APRC/17/12 (Draft Statement of Assurance 2016-17) to the meeting held on 28 June 2017 (and the Minutes of that meeting).