

REPORT REFERENCE NO.	APRC/18/13
MEETING	AUDIT & PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING	27 JULY 2018
SUBJECT OF REPORT	2017-18 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE
LEAD OFFICER	Director of Service Improvement
RECOMMENDATIONS	<i>That that the final Annual Statement of Assurance appended to this report - required to accompany the 2017-18 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>A draft Statement of Assurance for 2017-18 has been submitted, along with the draft 2017-18 Statement of Accounts, to the Authority’s external auditors.</p> <p>While the external auditors have not identified any significant, material issues requiring amendment, they have nonetheless commented that the Statement should have a conclusion. Consequently, the proposed final version of the 2017-18 Annual Statement of Assurance appended to this report now contains, at Section 7, a conclusion.</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. 2017-18 Final Annual Statement of Assurance
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS	Nil.