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| <b>REPORT REFERENCE NO.</b>                          | <b>APRC/19/11</b>  |
| <b>MEETING</b>                                       | <b>AUDIT &amp; PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE</b>  |
| <b>DATE OF MEETING</b>                               | <b>19 JULY 2019</b>  |
| <b>SUBJECT OF REPORT</b>                             | <b>2018-19 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE</b>   |
| <b>LEAD OFFICER</b>                                  | <b>Director of Service Improvement</b>   |
| <b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>                               | <b><i>That that the final Annual Statement of Assurance appended to this report - required to accompany the 2018-19 final accounts – be approved and published on the Authority’s website.</i></b>   |
| <b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>                             | <p>To comply with both Accounts and Audit Regulations and the Fire &amp; 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 2018-19 has been submitted, along with the draft 2018-19 Statement of Accounts, to the Authority’s external auditors.</p> |
| <b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>                         | Nil.   |
| <b>EQUALITY RISKS AND BENEFITS ASSESSMENT (ERBA)</b> | The contents of this report are considered compatible with existing equalities and human rights legislation.   |
| <b>APPENDICES</b>                                    | A. 2018-19 Final Annual Statement of Assurance   |
| <b>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>                     | Nil.   |