

<b>REPORT REFERENCE NO.</b>	<b>APRC/20/4</b>
<b>MEETING</b>	<b>AUDIT &amp; PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>4 MARCH 2020</b>
<b>SUBJECT OF REPORT</b>	<b>2019-20 DRAFT ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	<b>Director of Governance &amp; Digital Services</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<i><b>That that the draft Annual Statement of Assurance appended to this report - required to accompany the 2019-20 final accounts – be approved and published on the Authority’s website.</b></i>
<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 2019-20 has been prepared for submission with the draft 2019-20 Statement of Accounts, to the Authority’s external auditors in due course.</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. 2019-20 Draft Annual Statement of Assurance
<b>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	Nil.