

<b>REPORT REFERENCE NO.</b>	<b>AGC/22/4</b>
<b>MEETING</b>	<b>AUDIT &amp; GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>10 MAY 2022</b>
<b>SUBJECT OF REPORT</b>	<b>DRAFT 2021-22 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	<b>Director of Governance &amp; Digital Services</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<i>That the draft Annual Statement of Assurance 2021-22 as appended to this report be approved in principle and submitted to the External Auditor alongside the draft Statement of Accounts for the same financial year.</i>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<p>To comply with both Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (as amended) and the Fire &amp; Rescue Service National Framework for England, the Authority is required to produce and publish an Annual Statement of Assurance on financial, governance and operational matters. This Statement should demonstrate how the Authority has had regard to both its Integrated Risk Management Plan and the expectations in the Fire &amp; 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 Statement of Assurance for 2021-22 will be submitted, along with the draft 2021-22 Statement of Accounts, to the Authority's external auditors for review.</p> <p>Sections 12 and 13 on page 15 are subject to completion of the internal audit and external audit work.</p>
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	Nil.
<b>EQUALITY RISKS AND BENEFITS ANALYSIS</b>	The contents of this report are considered compatible with existing equalities and human rights legislation.
<b>APPENDICES</b>	A. 2021-22 Annual Statement of Assurance DRAFT
<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	<a href="#">The Accounts &amp; Audit Regulations 2015 (as amended)</a> <a href="#">The Fire &amp; Rescue Service National Framework for England</a>

**MIKE PEARSON**  
**Director of Governance & Digital Services**