

Audit and Governance Committee

DATE 29 November 2023

Community Safety Services Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service Annual Report 2022/23

Report by Matt Cook, Deputy Chief Fire Officer

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Committee is RECOMMENDED to

Consider and approve the Community Safety Services, Annual Report 2022/23 for publication. This document is procedural and not recommending any policy decision, strategy or project involving major change.

Executive Summary

The Community Safety Services, Annual Report provides information to members of the public on Oxfordshire Fire and Rescues activities and performance. It demonstrates what we have done between 2022 and 2023 across our strategic priorities of protection, prevention, response and people. The Annual Report supports principles of good governance, transparency, regular reporting and public accountability. The report covers the five teams that make up Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service including Emergency Response, Road Safety, Emergency Planning, Trading Standards and Gypsy and Traveller Services.

Exempt Information

2. No areas of exemption requested. Content will be public facing and open to public scrutiny.

About the Community Safety Services, Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, Annual Report 2021/22

Purpose

3. Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority is the designated Fire and Rescue Authority for the County of Oxfordshire. It has a primary responsibility to protect the community, reduce harm and save lives through prevention, protection and response. The Chief Fire Officer and the Cabinet Member for Community Services and Safety ensure the Council meets its legal and operational responsibilities to provide an effective fire and rescue service for Oxfordshire's communities.

4. The Community Safety Services, Annual Report provides information to members of the public on Oxfordshire Fire and Rescues performance between 2022/23. It demonstrates in an easy-to-read manner our activities against our strategic priorities of protection, prevention, response and people outlined in the Services 2022-23 Fire and Rescue, Service Delivery Plan.
5. The Annual Report supports principles of good governance by ensuring transparency, regular reporting and public accountability across the Services strategic priorities. Information has been presented with “readability” and engagement in mind and will be available online.
6. The Annual Report signposts readers to further information where appropriate. This includes links to the CSS Directorates Statement of Assurance 2022/23 which is submitted to this Committee for approval as a separate document. Both documents support assurance and good governance enabling elected members and communities to scrutinise how outcomes are being achieved efficiently, effectively and in accordance with statutory requirements.

Aligning with Oxfordshire County Council’s Corporate Policies and Priorities

7. The Community Safety Services 2022/23, Annual Report is aligned directly to the Councils Vision, Values, Objectives and Strategic Priorities. The document highlights how Community Safety Services contribute to the following strategic priorities:
 - 1) Taking action to address the climate emergency in the way we work
 - 2) Tackling inequalities in Oxfordshire
 - 3) Prioritising the health and wellbeing of residents through our prevention and response work
 - 4) Supporting carers and the social care system through safeguarding and consumer protection
 - 5) Creating opportunities for children and young people to be safe and reach their full potential through education, work experience and fire cadets
 - 6) Engaging with our communities to play our part in a vibrant and participatory local democracy.
 - 7) Working with local businesses and partners for environmental, economic and social benefit.

Financial Implications

7. There are no new or additional financial implications arising from the CSS 2022/23 Annual Report. The document forms part of the annual procedural reporting process.

Legal Implications

8. There are no new or additional legal implications arising from the Annual Report. The document forms part of the annual procedural reporting process.

Staff Implications

9. There are no new or additional resourcing implications. The document forms part of the annual procedural reporting process.

Equality & Inclusion Implications

9. There are no additional equality and inclusion implications. The Community Safety Services directorate aims to ensure all areas of Service delivery are considered within a risk based framework targeting those most vulnerable from harm. The Annual Report contains references to initiatives designed to develop inclusivity within the Community Safety Services Directorate. All policies, procedures and working practices are assessed against an Equality Impact assessment. The Annual Report document has been produced with accessibility and readability in mind.

Sustainability Implications

10. There are no sustainability implications within this proposal. Consideration has been given to limit environmental impact from printing and the publication will be made easily available as an online publication.

Risk Management

11. Community Safety Services activities are managed through robust national and local risk assessment frameworks. These include utilising and aligning with National Fire Chiefs Council guidance and National Fire Standards to manage operational and strategic risks. The Service also maintains a Directorate risk register and acts as the local authorities lead agency in business continuity, resilience, and emergency planning. The Service also Chairs the Local Resilience Forum, the CBRN (Chemical Biological Radioactive and Nuclear) group and engages in regular interoperability training with Category 1 and 2 responders. This report is not recommending any policy decision, strategy or project that would impact on the existing risk management strategy.

Consultations

12. There were no specific consultation requirements to producing the Community Safety Services, Annual Report.

NAME Rob MacDougall, Director of Community Safety and Chief Fire Officer

Annex: Community Safety Services, Annual Report 2022-23

Background papers: Community Safety Services, Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, Statement of Assurance 2022-23

Other Documents

- [Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, Community Risk Management Plan, 2022-26](#)
- [HMICFRS Inspection Report 2021/22, Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, Effectiveness efficiency and people.](#)

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