

Guidance is given in square brackets under each of the headings below. Headings which are discretionary are also in square brackets. Please delete as you go along and remove heading and sections not needed.

Divisions Affected – N/A

Audit and Governance Committee

DATE 23rd November 2022

**Community Safety Services-
Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service
Statement of Assurance 2021/22**

Report by DCFO Jo Bowcock

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Committee is RECOMMENDED to

Consider and approve the Community Safety Services, Statement of Assurance 2021/22 for publication. This document is not recommending any policy decision, strategy or project involving major change.

Executive Summary

The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England 2018 sets out a requirement for all fire and rescue authorities to provide annual assurance on financial, governance and operational matters through publishing an Annual Statement of Assurance. Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Services, Annual Statement of Assurance confirms that we are demonstrating due regard to the requirements included in the framework and the expectations set out in the authorities' risk management plans. It covers activities across the Service including Fire and Rescue response, Road Safety, Emergency Planning, and Trading Standards.

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, Statement of Assurance 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, Statement of Assurance is published in line with statutory reporting requirements. It provides assurance against the four strategic areas of protection, prevention, response and people outlined as in the [2021-22 Fire and Rescue, Service Delivery Plan](#).
5. The Statement of Assurance 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 Statement of Assurance signposts readers to further information where appropriate. For example, the CSS Directorates Annual Report 2021/22 which is submitted to this Committee for approval as a separate document, includes a detailed breakdown of the types and numbers of incidents fire crews attended. 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
7. The Statement of Assurance also includes references to the Home Office led [2021/21 HMICFRS inspection report](#). This report provides independent assurance on how Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service achieved a "good" rating across all three key inspection areas of effectiveness, efficiency and how we look after our people. Inspectors were pleased with the performance of Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service in keeping people safe and secure from fires and other risks.

[Corporate Policies and Priorities]

The Statement of Assurance is aligned to the Councils Vision, Values, Objectives and Strategic Priorities. The Directorates strategic priorities which the statement assures against are highlighted within the [Service delivery Plan 2021-2022 "Delivering Thriving Communities"](#) and include:

- Developing thriving communities for everyone in Oxfordshire

- Providing outstanding community focussed services that are inclusive and respected
- Being forward thinking, agile, dynamic, and resilient

Financial Implications

8. There are no new or additional financial implications arising from the Statement of Assurance.

Comments checked by:

Thomas James
Finance Business Partner
Thomas.james@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Legal Implications

There are no new or additional legal implications arising from this report.

Staff Implications

9. There are no new or additional resourcing implications. Publication will be managed through existing in-house capacity and OCC systems.

Equality & Inclusion Implications

10. There are no additional EDI implications. The document has been produced with accessibility and readability in mind. 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. All policies, procedures and working practices are managed through Equality Impact assessments.

Sustainability Implications

11. 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

12. The CSS's 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 LRF 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 involving major change that would impact on the existing risk management strategy.

Consultations

13. There were no specific consultation requirements to producing the Community Safety Services, Statement of Assurance.

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

Annex: [Community Safety Service - Statement of Assurance 2021-22 VR 03-11-2022.docx](#)

Background papers: Nil

[Other Documents:]

- [Community Safety Services, Annual Report 2021-22](#)
- [2021-22 Service Delivery Plan, Community Safety Services](#)
- [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.](#)

Contact Officer: Faisal Atcha, Station Manager
Organisational Risk and Assurance Officer, Community Safety Services, Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service
Telephone: 07766496588
Faisal.atcha@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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