

Division(s):

Audit and Governance Committee 17th November 2021

OXFORDSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE 2020/21

Report by the Chief Fire Officer

RECOMMENDATION

1. **The Audit and Governance Committee is RECOMMENDED to approve the report in its entirety.**

Introduction

2. The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (the Framework) sets out a requirement for fire and rescue authorities to provide an annual statement of assurance on financial, governance and operational matters and to show how they have due regard to the requirements of the Framework and the expectations set out in authorities' own integrated risk management plans.
3. To demonstrate this, the Framework requires that each authority must publish an annual statement of assurance. The Statement of Assurance 2020/21 document is intended to meet the obligation to produce this statement through reference to public webpages, existing reports and documents.
4. The report was prepared following the Department for Communities and Local Government guidance on statements of assurance for fire and rescue authorities in England. The structure of the report was based on guidance contained in Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) Circular 2013-10 appendix - draft table of contents statement of assurance.

Publication

5. The statement of assurance is intended to be published on the public website only and will form a 'Statement' on a web page with accessible links to relevant supporting information. The OCC Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 makes reference to the statement of assurance and provides a link to the web address.
6. The statement of assurance should be signed on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council by Councillor Neil Fawcett, Cabinet Member with responsibility for the fire and rescue service.

ROB MACDOUGALL
Chief Fire Officer

Background papers: none

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