

## **Audit and Governance Committee**

**DATE 27 November 2024**

### **Community Safety Services Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service Annual Report 2023/24**

**Report by Daisy Hickman, Performance Improvement Manager**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**1. The Committee is RECOMMENDED to**

Consider and approve the Community Safety Services, Annual Report 2023/24 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 2023 and 2024 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 four teams that make up Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service including Emergency 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, Annual Report 2023/24**

#### **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 2023/24. It demonstrates, in an easy-to-read manner, our activities against our strategic priorities of protection, prevention, response and people outlined in the Services 2023-24 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 2023/24 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 scrutinize how outcomes are being achieved efficiently, effectively and in accordance with statutory requirements.

## **Aligning with Oxfordshire County Council’s Corporate Policies and Priorities**

The Community Safety Services 2023/24, 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:

- Put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work.
- Tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire.
- Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents.
- Support carers and the social care system.
- Invest in an inclusive, integrated and sustainable transport network.
- Preserve and improve access to nature and green spaces.
- Create opportunities for children and young people to reach their full potential.
- Play our part in a vibrant and participatory local democracy.
- Work 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 2023/24 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. 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 Chief Fire Officer and Director for Community Safety**

Annex: Community Safety Services, Annual Report 2023-2024

Background papers: Community Safety Services, Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, Statement of Assurance 2023-24

Other Documents:

- Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26
- HMICFRS Inspection Report 2023-25: Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, Effectiveness efficiency and people.

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