

AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
15 July 2026
Fire and Community Safety Annual Report 2025/26

**Report by Lorna Baxter, Deputy Chief Executive and Section
151 Officer**

Report by Chief Fire Officer and Director of Community Safety

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is RECOMMENDED to consider and approve the Fire and Community Safety Annual Report 2025/26 for publication. This document is procedural and does not recommend any policy decision, strategy, or project involving major change.

Executive Summary

1. The Fire and Community Safety, Annual Report provides information to members of the public on Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue, Trading Standards, Road Safety and the Joint Oxfordshire Resilience activities and performance. It demonstrates what we have done between 2025 and 2026 across our strategic priorities of protection, prevention, response, and people. The Annual Report supports principles of good governance, transparency, regular reporting, and public accountability.

Exempt Information

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

About the Fire and Community Safety, Annual Report 2025/26

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 Resources ensure the Council meets its legal and operational responsibilities to provide an effective fire and rescue service for Oxfordshire's communities.

4. The Fire and Community Safety Annual Report provides information to members of the public on our performance between 2025/26. It demonstrates, in an easy-to-read manner, our activities against our strategic priorities of protection, prevention, response, and people outlined in the Services 2025-26 Fire and Rescue, Service Direction Statement.
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.

Aligning with Oxfordshire County Council’s Corporate Policies and Priorities

6. The Fire and Community Safety 2025/26, Annual Report is aligned directly to the Councils Vision, Values, Objectives and Strategic Priorities. The document highlights how the Service contribute to the following strategic priorities:
 - Healthier Oxfordshire
 - Fairer Oxfordshire

Financial Implications

7. There are no new or additional financial implications arising from the Fire and Community Safety Annual Report 25/26. The document forms part of the annual procedural reporting process.

Comments approved by:

Drew Hodgson
Strategic Finance Business Partner
drew.hodgson@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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.

Comments approved by:

Jennifer Crouch, Principal Solicitor
Jennifer.crouch@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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 Fire and Community Safety 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 Fire and Community Safety 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. Fire and Community Safety 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 the existing risk management strategy.

Consultations

12. There were no specific consultation requirements to producing the Fire and Community Safety Annual Report.

Rob MacDougall, Chief Fire Officer and Director of Community Safety

Annex: Fire and Community Safety, Annual Report 2025/26

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.](#)

Contact Officer: Daisy Hickman
Performance Improvement Manager, Fire and
Community Safety
Daisy.Hickman@oxfordshire.gov.uk

July 2026