

HUMBERSIDE FIRE AUTHORITY

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE 2020/21

Introduction

1. The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (Revised 2018) sets out a requirement for Fire and Rescue Authorities to provide annual assurance on financial, governance and operational matters and show they have had due regard to the expectations set out in their Integrated Risk Management Plan and the requirements included in the Framework.
2. The content of the Humberside Fire Authority (HFA) Statement of Assurance is based upon the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Guidance on Statements of Assurance for Fire and Rescue Authorities in England (2013).

Financial Assurance

3. The Authority places a great deal of emphasis on ensuring that its financial management arrangements meet the highest standards.
4. This is discharged through a number of key processes as follows:
 - The Annual Statement of Accounts is produced in line with accounting Codes of Practice, is scrutinised by an independent Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee, approved by the Fire Authority and audited by independent external auditors prior to publication.
 - Management Accounts are distributed for consideration by the Strategic Leadership Team, the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee and the Fire Authority.
 - An independent external audit view is given on an annual basis as to whether the Authority is delivering a value for money service.

Governance Assurance

5. The Authority has an approved 'Local Code of Corporate Governance' in accordance with the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework for Corporate Governance.
6. The Constitution of HFA includes:
 - Committee Membership and Terms of Reference.
 - Scheme of Delegation to Officers.
 - Financial Procedure Rules.
 - Contract Procedure Rules.
 - Members' Code of Conduct.
 - Officers' Code of Conduct.
 - Protocol for Member and Officer Relationships.
 - Code of Corporate Governance.

The Constitution is published on the HFRS Website.

7. An Annual Governance Statement (AGS) is produced explaining how HFA has complied with the code of corporate governance and also meets the requirements of regulation 4(3) of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011. The AGS is published on the HFRS Website.

Operational Assurance

8. The Strategic Plan and Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) have a three-year life cycle, reviewed annually in accordance with the Business Planning Framework. The Strategic Plan and IRMP are published on the HFRS Website.
9. The Strategic Plan 2021/24 includes Strategic Objectives across the following headings:
 - What we must do well.
 - How we support our communities.
 - We value and support the people we employ.
 - We efficiently manage the Service.
10. The IRMP 2021/24 takes account of the requirements of the National Framework (Revised 2018), providing a detailed assessment of the risks facing our communities and firefighters and the measures taken to mitigate those risks.
11. Mutual aid arrangements are in place with other services and agencies to provide resilience for large scale or complex incidents, or events, where additional resources need to be called on. HFRS actively contributes to local and national resilience and has made its assets available to support local and national emergencies, including the Covid-19 Pandemic.
12. Business Continuity plans exist for generic, key functions and building asset risks and have been developed over many years in conjunction with partners. There is a coordinated approach to Business Continuity Management across the Service including development, training, exercising and review. Arrangements are aligned to International Standard ISO22301
13. An Annual Performance Report and Quarterly Performance and Risk Reports are reported to HFA.

Conclusions

15. Due regard has been paid to the requirements placed upon HFA through the National Framework and other governance and financial frameworks.

Signed



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John Briggs
Chair of Humberside Fire Authority



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Chris Blacksell
Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive