

**HUMBERSIDE FIRE AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE 2013/14**

Introduction

1. The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (2007) 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;
 - Monthly Management Accounts are distributed for consideration by the Corporate Management 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.
7. The effectiveness of the governance structure was reviewed in 2012/13. A review of the role of the Governance Audit and Scrutiny Committee took place in 2013/14.
8. An [Annual Governance Statement](#) is produced explaining how the HFA has complied with the code of corporate governance and also meets the requirements of regulation 4(2) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006 in relation to the publication of a statement on internal control and again amended in 2011.

Operational Assurance

9. The Service Business Planning Framework, the Strategic Plan and the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) for 2014/17 ensure three future years of forward planning which is the driver for the Service's financial plans. The Strategic Plan and IRMP 2014/17 were approved by HFA in March 2014, following a six week period of public and internal consultation.
10. The HFA [Strategic Plan 2014/17](#) includes Strategic Objectives, Strategic Performance Indicators and Directors' responsibilities.
11. The [IRMP 2014/17](#) takes account of the requirements of the National Framework (2012), providing a detailed assessment of the risks facing our communities and firefighters and the measures taken to mitigate those risks.
12. Mutual aid arrangements are in place with other services to provide resilience for large scale or complex incidents where additional resources need to be called on. HFRS actively contributes to national resilience and has made its assets available to support national emergencies, such as flooding events in southern England during 2014.
13. An Operational Assessment is undertaken by an annual Self Assessment and a three yearly [Peer Audit](#) , last conducted in March 2013.
14. An annual [Customer Service Excellence Audit](#) is conducted in January each year, this replaced the Charter Mark award.
15. An [Annual Performance Report](#) and Quarterly Performance and Risk Reports are scrutinised by the Governance Audit and Scrutiny Committee, before being reported to HFA.

Conclusions

16. The requirements placed upon HFA through the National Framework have been adequately met.

Signed

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Chair of the Authority

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Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive