

Report to	North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority
Date	16 October 2023
Lead Officer	Stewart Forshaw, Deputy Chief Fire Officer
Contact Officer	Anthony Jones – Head of Planning, Performance and Transformation
Subject	Annual Governance Statement 2022/23



PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 This report is to present to Members the Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2 The CIPFA/Solace Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework (2016) (the Framework) requires the Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority) to publish an Annual Governance Statement.
- 3 The Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23 is set out in Appendix 1 and has been prepared in accordance with the principles set out in the Framework. The forward work programme for 2023/24 is contained within the Annual Government Statement.
- 4 The Annual Governance Statement has been first and second stage reviewed by Audit Wales to confirm that it is consistent with its knowledge of the Authority and the financial statements.
- 5 The Annual Governance Statement will be published, once endorsed by The Treasurer, The Chair of the Fire Authority and The Chief Fire Officer, by the 31 October 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

- 6 Members are asked to:
 - (i) note the governance arrangements outlined within the 2022/23 Annual Governance Statement;
 - (ii) note the forward work plan for 2023/24; and
 - (iii) approve the 2022/23 Annual Government Statement for publishing on the Authority's website by 31 October 2023.

BACKGROUND

- 7 Since 2010/11 all local government bodies have been required, by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, to prepare an Annual Governance Statement which is published as part of the Statutory Accounts.
- 8 The purpose of the Annual Governance Statement is to assess and demonstrate that there is a sound system of corporate governance throughout the organisation.

INFORMATION

- 9 In 2016, CIPFA and Solace published a new governance framework, Developing Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (the Framework). The Framework is structured around seven principles of governance which enables the Authority to demonstrate its overall arrangements and set out how it has discharged its responsibilities.
- 10 The purpose of the Annual Governance Statement is to set out the Authority's arrangements to ensure that:
 - (i) business is conducted in accordance with all relevant laws and regulations;
 - (ii) public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for; and
 - (iii) resources are used economically, efficiently and effectively to achieve agreed priorities which benefit local people.
- 11 The 2022/23 Annual Governance Statement is set out in Appendix 1. It provides an overview of the governance arrangements and confirms the work plan for 2023/24.
- 12 Once published, performance against the forward work plan 23/24 will be monitored through the Service Leadership Teams' Performance Board.

IMPLICATIONS

Wellbeing Objectives	This report links to NWFRA's long-term well-being objectives and demonstrates the governance arrangements in place to enable the Service to provide emergency responses and prevention work well in to the future.
Budget	Not applicable
Legal	The Annual Governance Statement has been prepared in accordance with the prescribed standards.
Staffing	None
Equalities/Human Rights/Welsh Language	None
Risks	A sound governance framework supports the Authority's risk management arrangements.