

Report to	North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority
Date	20 October 2025
Lead Officer	Anthony Jones – Assistant Chief Fire Officer
Contact Officer	Mike Plant – Head of Planning, Performance and Transformation
Subject	Annual Governance Statement 2024-2025



PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 To present to Members of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority) a draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS), as required by The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2 The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 requires the Authority to publish an AGS to demonstrate that:
 - Business is conducted in accordance with all relevant laws and regulations;
 - Public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for; and
 - Resources are used economically, efficiently and effectively to achieve agreed priorities which benefit local people.
- 3 The AGS for 2024/25 is set out in Appendix 1 and has been prepared in accordance with the principles set out in the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)/Solace Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework (2016) (the Framework). The forward work programme for 2025/26 is contained within the draft AGS.
- 4 The AGS will be published as part of the production of the statutory financial statements for 2024/25. An assessment will be made by the external auditor to confirm whether it is consistent with the financial statements and has been produced in line with the Framework.

OBSERVATIONS FROM AUDIT COMMITTEE

- 5 The draft AGS 2024/25 was considered by members of the Audit Committee at their meeting on 16 June 2025. Members resolved to agree the proposed actions for 2024/25, note that the draft AGS was submitted to Audit Wales prior to the deadline of 31 May and to retrospectively authorise that submission.

RECOMMENDATION

- 6 It is recommended that Members:
- i) **Note the final Annual Governance Statement; and**
 - ii) **Agree the proposed actions for 2025/26**

BACKGROUND

- 7 Since 2010/11 all local government bodies have been required, by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, to prepare an AGS which is published as part of the Statutory Accounts.
- 8 The purpose of the AGS 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:
- business is conducted in accordance with all relevant laws and regulations.
 - public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for; and
 - resources are used economically, efficiently and effectively to achieve agreed priorities which benefit local people.
- 11 The AGS is reviewed by Audit Wales to confirm that it is consistent with its knowledge of the Authority and the financial statements.

- 12 Once published, performance against the forward work plan 25/26 will be monitored through the Service Leadership Teams' Performance Board on a quarterly basis.

IMPLICATIONS

Well-being Objectives	This report links to the Authority's long-term well-being objectives and demonstrates the governance arrangements in place to enable North Wales Fire and Rescue Service (the Service) to provide emergency responses and prevention work well in to the future
Budget	N/A
Legal	Preparation and submission of the Annual Governance Statement to the Auditor General, is in compliance with The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014
Staffing	None
Equalities/Human Rights/ Welsh Language	Compliance with Equality Duty and Welsh Language Standards is explicitly referenced in the Statement.
Risks	A sound governance framework supports the Authority's risk management arrangements.