

Report to	<b>North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority</b>
Date	<b>17 July 2023</b>
Lead Officer	<b>Stewart Forshaw, Deputy Chief Fire Officer</b>
Contact Officer	<b>Anthony Jones – Head of Planning, Performance and Transformation</b>
Subject	<b>Annual Governance Statement 2022/23</b>



## **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

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

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2 The CIPFA/Solace Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework (2016) (the Framework) requires the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority) to publish an Annual Governance Statement.
- 3 The draft 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 draft Annual Government Statement.
- 4 The Annual Governance Statement will be published as part of the production of the statutory financial statements for 2022/23. 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.
- 5 Following this assessment, a final version of the Annual Governance Statement will be presented to the Authority for approval and subsequent internal and external publication.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- 6 Members are asked to:
  - (i) note the governance arrangements outlined within the draft 2022/23 Annual Governance Statement;
  - (ii) note the forward work plan for 2023/24; and
  - (iii) approve the draft 2022/23 Annual Government Statement.

## **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 draft 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 The Annual Governance Statement is reviewed by Audit Wales to confirm that it is consistent with its knowledge of the Authority and the financial statements.
- 13 Once published, performance against the forward work plan 23/24 will be monitored through the Service Leadership Teams' Performance Board on a quarterly basis.

## IMPLICATIONS

<b>Wellbeing Objectives</b>	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.
<b>Budget</b>	Not applicable
<b>Legal</b>	The Annual Governance Statement has been prepared in accordance with the prescribed standards.
<b>Staffing</b>	None
<b>Equalities/Human Rights/Welsh Language</b>	None
<b>Risks</b>	A sound governance framework supports the Authority's risk management arrangements.