

Open Report on behalf of Les Britzman, Chief Fire Officer

Report to:	Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date:	10 December 2019
Subject:	Fire and Rescue – Statement of Assurance

Summary:

The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England sets out the requirement for fire and rescue authorities to provide an annual Statement of Assurance on financial, governance and operational matters. The Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Statement of Assurance for 2018-19 is attached. The Statement will be used as a source of information on which to base the Secretary of State's biennial report under section 25 of the Fire and Rescue Service Act 2004.

Actions Required:

Members of the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee are invited to consider and note the contents of Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Authority's Statement of Assurance 2018 - 2019.

1. Background

The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England¹ sets out the requirement for fire and rescue authorities to provide an annual Statement of Assurance on financial, governance and operational matters and to show how they have had due regard to the expectations set out in their integrated risk management plan and the requirements included in the Framework. The attached report is intended to meet that obligation.

The Department for Communities and Local Government have provided 'light touch' guidance on the content of the Statement leaving it to individual fire and rescue authorities to decide how to best present the information. As Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue is part of the County Council, much of the financial and governance information has already been published in the Council's Statement of Accounts. Other information is readily available in existing published documents. To avoid duplication these have been referenced in the Statement of Assurance where appropriate.

¹ Fire and Rescue National Framework for England dated May 18

2. Conclusion

Lincolnshire FRA is satisfied that the systems and measures it had in place with respect to financial, governance and operational matters for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 were fit for purpose and effective. It is satisfied that its business was conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards and that public money was properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively. It is also satisfied that, where appropriate, the National Framework requirements have been met.

Following the scrutiny committee meeting the Statement of Assurance will be made available on Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue's website.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	LFR Statement of Assurance 2018 – 2019

5. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
DCLG – Guidance on statements of assurance for fire and rescue authorities in England	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statements-of-assurance-for-fire-and-rescue-authorities-in-england
Fire and Rescue National Framework for England	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-and-rescue-national-framework-for-england--2

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