

**Open Report on behalf of Mark Baxter, Chief Fire Officer**

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| Report to: | <b>Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee</b> |
| Date:      | <b>14 December 2021</b>                                     |
| Subject:   | <b>Fire &amp; Rescue Statement of Assurance</b>             |

**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 2020-21 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 2020-21.

## **1. Background**

The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England<sup>1</sup> 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 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 information has already been published in the Council's Statement of Accounts. Other information is readily available in the existing

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<sup>1</sup> Fire and Rescue National Framework for England dated May 18

published documents. To avoid duplication these have been referenced in the Statement of Assurance where appropriate.

## 2. Conclusion

Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Authority is satisfied that the systems and measures it had in place with respect of financial, governance and operational matters for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 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) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

## 4. Appendices

|   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| These are listed below and attached at the back of the report |                                    |
| Appendix A  | LFR Statement of Assurance 2020-21 |

## 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 Statement of Assurance for fire and rescue authorities in England | Gov.UK website - <a href="#">Guidance on Statement of Assurance for fire and rescue authorities in England</a> |
| Fire and Rescue National Framework for England                                       | Gov.UK website – <a href="#">Fire and Rescue National Framework for England 2018</a>                           |

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