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| Meeting | Strategic Board | Agenda Item | 7 |
| Meeting Date | 23 September 2020 | | |
| Report Author: | Emily Cheyne, Assistant Director – Corporate Communications | | |
| Presented By | Rick Hylton, Deputy Chief Fire Officer | | |
| Subject | Annual Report and Statement of Assurance 2019/2020 | | |
| Type of Report: | Decision | | |

RECOMMENDATION

Members of the Strategic Board are asked to approve the Annual Report and Statement of Assurance.

BACKGROUND

The Fire and Rescue National Framework sets out the priorities and objectives for fire and rescue authorities in connection with the discharge of their functions. Every Fire and Rescue Authority must publish an annual statement of assurance of compliance with the Framework.

For PCC FRAs such as Essex, this statement is subject to scrutiny by the Police, Fire and Crime Panel and is called the 'Fire and Rescue Statement'.

The statement should outline the way in which the authority and its fire and rescue service has had regard – in the period covered by the document – to this National Framework, the Integrated Risk Management Plan and to any strategic plan prepared by the authority for that period. The authority must also provide assurance to their community and to government on financial, governance and operational matters.

The Annual Report and Statement of Assurance should be of sufficient detail and clarity for a member of the public or an elected representative to see how the Service has performed against its strategy.

The key sign-off points for the Statement are:

- Strategic Board (Fire and Rescue): 23 September
- Police Fire and Crime Panel: 22 October (PFCC will either include or respond to any comments)
- Police Fire and Crime Panel: 10 December

Most of the content for the Fire and Rescue Statement has been sourced from existing reports, documents, and reports, as well as input directly from colleagues.

Areas still requiring attention:

- Infographics - will be used to summarise some of the key data for 2018/19.
- Final design and images

BENEFITS AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

None.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None. The design work has been managed in-house with the Corporate Communications team.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

None.

WORKFORCE ENGAGEMENT

None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There is a requirement set out in the Fire and Rescue National Framework for Police and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authorities to produce an annual Fire and Rescue Statement.

HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None linked to this report.