

HUMBERSIDE FIRE AUTHORITY

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE 2025/26



Introduction

1. The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England and provisions of the Localism Act 2011 set out a requirement for Fire and Rescue Authorities to provide annual assurance on financial, governance and operational matters and show they have had due regard to the expectations set out in their Community Risk Management Plan and the requirements included in the Framework.
2. The content of Humberside Fire Authority's Statement of Assurance is based upon the former Department for Communities and Local Government *Guidance on Statements of Assurance for Fire and Rescue Authorities in England (2013)*.

Financial

3. The HFA places a great deal of emphasis on ensuring that its financial management arrangements meet the highest standards.
4. This is discharged through several key processes:
 - The Annual Statement of Accounts is produced in line with accounting Codes of Practice, is scrutinised by the independent Governance, Audit & Scrutiny Committee, approved by the Fire Authority and audited by independent external auditors prior to publication.
 - Quarterly Finance and Procurement updates are distributed for consideration by the Strategic Leadership Team, the Governance, Audit & Scrutiny Committee and the Fire Authority.
 - An independent external audit view is given on an annual basis as to whether the Fire Authority is delivering a value for money service.
 - The publication of the [Medium-Term Resource Strategy](#) and [Treasury Management Strategy](#).

Governance

5. The Service functions within a clearly defined statutory and policy framework that ensures compliance and adherence to the following:
 - Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004
 - Civil Contingencies Act 2000
 - Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005
 - Fire and Rescue Services (Emergencies) (England) Order 20079
 - Localism Act 2011
 - Fire and Rescue National Framework for England
6. HFA is governed by its [Constitution](#) which includes:
 - Committee Membership and Terms of Reference, including a Governance, Audit & Scrutiny Committee.
 - Scheme of Delegation to Officers.
 - Financial Procedure Rules.
 - Contract Procedure Rules.
 - Members' Code of Conduct.
 - Officers' Code of Conduct.
 - Protocol for Member and Officer Relationships.
 - Code of Corporate Governance.

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7. An [Annual Governance Statement](#) is produced explaining how HFA has complied with the Code of Corporate Governance and also meets the requirements of The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.
8. Between October 2023 and January 2024, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) conducted an inspection into the handling of misconduct in fire and rescue services (FRSs) in England. As part of this work the Inspectorate selected 10 FRS, including Humberside Fire and Rescue Service, as a representative sample of FRS across England based on factors such as of size, location, governance structures and performance, undertaking a three-week thematic inspection of those services. As part of this work the Inspectorate also analysed data provided by all 44 FRS in England regarding their grievance and discipline cases.

In August 2024, following this work HMICFRS published its report '*Standards of behaviour: The handling of misconduct in fire and rescue services*' which contained 15 recommendations for all 44 FRS to action. The Inspectorate set various deadlines against each recommendation between April 2025 and March 2026. The Service met all reporting deadlines, completing all 15 recommendations.
9. The Service has a Service Improvement Plan in place to record, manage, monitor and evaluate actions taken to support continuous improvement. Throughout 2025/26, the Plan was the key mechanism for monitoring progress against the four Areas for Improvement identified in the Service's 2024 Round 3 HMICFRS inspection report, as well as internal audit findings.
10. Performance monitoring against the Service Improvement Plan is undertaken through monthly Strategic Leadership Team performance meetings and monthly directorate meetings.

Operational

11. The [Community Risk Management Plan \(CRMP\)](#) and [Strategic Plan](#) are reviewed annually in accordance with the Business Planning Framework.
12. The CRMP 2025-28 took into account of the requirements of the National Framework, providing a detailed assessment of the risks facing our communities and firefighters and the measures taken to mitigate those risks. The CRMP was approved by the Fire Authority on 28 March 2025 following a public consultation and is reviewed annually.
13. The Strategic Plan 2025-28, which is the enabler for delivering the CRMP, included strategic objectives across the following headings and was approved by the Authority on 28 March 2025:
 - **Deliver** a Service that puts our communities first
 - **Enable** a positive and inclusive workplace culture
 - **Ensure** an effective & efficient Service
 - **Enhance** Continuous Service Improvement
14. Mutual aid arrangements are in place with other services and agencies to provide resilience for large scale or complex incidents, or events, where additional resources need to be called on. The Service actively contributes to local and national resilience and has made its assets available to support local and national emergencies.

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15. Business Continuity plans exist for generic, key functions and building asset risks and have been developed over many years in conjunction with partners. There is a coordinated approach to Business Continuity Management across HFA including development, training, exercising and review. Arrangements are aligned to International Standard ISO22301 (Business Continuity Management Systems).
16. A sequence of [Bi-Annual Performance and Risk Reporting](#) are provided to HFA.
17. Productivity and efficiency is reported on an annual basis through the publication of the [Productivity and Efficiency Plan](#).

Signed

Handwritten signature of Nigel Sherwood in blue ink.

Councillor Nigel Sherwood
Chairperson of Humberside Fire Authority

Handwritten signature of Phil Shillito in blue ink.

Phil Shillito
Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive