

ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY



COMMITTEE	AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING	27 NOVEMBER 2024
SUBJECT	ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENTS 2021/22 AND 2022/23
LEAD OFFICER	ANGELA SMITH, PROGRAMME OFFICE AND INSPECTION MANAGER
LEAD MEMBER	N/A
EXEMPT INFORMATION	NONE
ACTION	FOR DECISION

1. **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The draft Annual Governance Statement for each financial year is published on our website along with the unaudited Statement of Accounts.
- 1.2 It is usual practice for the Annual Governance Statement to be approved at the same meeting as the Statement of Accounts.
- 1.3 The audit backlog means that the Statement of Accounts for 2021/22 and 2022/23 are only now being presented to Committee for approval.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee is requested to:

- 2.1 **AGREE** the Annual Governance Statements for 2021/22 and 2022/23.

3. **REPORT**

- 3.1 The Authority has approved and adopted a code of corporate governance which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework' (2016 edition) (The Framework). The 2021/22 and 2022/23 Annual Governance Statements explain how the Authority has complied with the Framework and also meet the requirements of Regulation 6 (1) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 which requires all relevant bodies to prepare an Annual Governance Statement.

- 3.2 Local authorities are required to prepare an Annual Governance Statement in order to report publicly on the extent to which they comply with their own code of governance, which in turn is consistent with the good governance principles in the Framework. This includes how they have monitored and evaluated the effectiveness of their governance arrangements in the year, and on any planned changes in the coming period.
- 3.3 The Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22 is attached as **Appendix A** and the Statement for 2022/23 is attached as **Appendix B** to this covering report.

4. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC COMMITMENTS

- 4.1 Commitment 5 – Sustainability. We will ensure that we provide a financially sustainable and environmentally friendly service to our communities.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Annual Governance Statement enables the Authority to explain to the community, service users, taxpayers and other stakeholders its governance arrangements and how the controls it has in place manage financial risks of failure in delivering outcomes and thus underpins the financial statements.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The auditor's opinion as to whether financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority is based on compliance with the CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None for the purposes of this report.

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 None for the purposes of this report.

9. CONSISTENCY WITH DUTY TO COLLABORATE

- 9.1 None for the purpose of this report.

10. PRINCIPAL CONSULTATION

- 10.1 The Chief Fire Officer, Chief Finance Officer, Monitoring Officer and Senior Leadership Team were consulted in the compilation of this report.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 None.

12. APPENDICES

12.1 Appendix A – Annual Governance Statement 2021/22.

12.2 Appendix B – Annual Governance Statement 2022/23.

13. CONTACT DETAILS

13.1 Conor Byrne - Head of Finance and Procurement
Email: byrnec@rbfrs.co.uk