



CABINET

13 DECEMBER 2016

DIRECTOR OF PLACE COMMISSIONING: TONY CIABURRO

**CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR PUBLIC PROTECTION:
DEPUTY LEADER, COUNCILLOR ANDRE GONZALEZ DE SAVAGE**

Subject:	Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service, Fire Authority Statement of Assurance 2016
Recommendations:	The Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service, Fire Authority Statement of Assurance 2016 be approved for publication

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is for the Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service, Fire Authority Statement of Assurance be approved for publication in accordance with the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England.

2. How this decision contributes to the Council Plan

The Council’s vision is to make Northamptonshire a great place to live and work. This is achieved through increasing the wellbeing of your county’s communities and/or safeguarding the county’s communities.

This initiative specifically delivers increased wellbeing and/or safeguarding by:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to information • Getting people involved.
And Through:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploitation of Technology • Intelligence Led Services

3. Background

3.1 Attached to this report is the Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service, Fire Authority’s annual Statement of Assurance setting out the arrangements in place covering the time frame from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016.

3.2 Context

The Government is committed to unburdening local government; eliminating top-down bureaucracy and increasing local flexibility. For fire and rescue authorities, this ethos is demonstrated by the revised Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (the Framework), and in the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, which helps to let them run their services as they see fit.

This freedom and flexibility is accompanied by the need for accountability and transparency. Providing an excellent service is only the starting point - communities expect to know how their services are being provided.

It is against this background that the Framework sets out a requirement for fire and rescue authorities to publish an annual Statement of Assurance.

Fire and Rescue authorities are accountable for their performance and should be open to evaluation by the communities they serve. Information on their performance should be accessible, robust, fit-for-purpose and accurately report on effectiveness and value for money.

One of the principal aims of the Statement of Assurance is to provide an accessible way in which communities, Government, local authorities and other partners may make a valid assessment of their local fire and rescue authority's performance.

The Statement of Assurance 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 Act 2004.

3.3 Content of the Annual Statement of Assurance

The Statement of Assurance incorporates headings covering financial, governance and operational matters to provide assurance that the Fire Authority has shown due regard to the requirements of the Fire and Rescue National framework and the expectations set out in the Fire Authorities Integrated Risk Management Plan. It is intended that where possible, it should not duplicate information publicly available elsewhere but should provide sufficient contextual information but then point the reader to where more comprehensive information can be found.

4. Consultation and Scrutiny

- 4.1 The annual Statement of Assurance is principally informed by the Fire and Rescue Integrated Risk Management Plan, further supported by the County Council Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement.
- 4.2 The Integrated Risk Management Plan is developed in consultation with the Fire and Rescue Scrutiny Working Group and is subject to widespread stakeholder consultation.
- 4.3 The Statement of Assurance will be presented to the Cabinet on 13th of December 2016.
- 4.4 All supporting documents are publically available.

5. Equality Screening

- 5.1 Equality impact assessment completed. Link here

Fire & Rescue:

<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Council/equalities/Pages/frseia.aspx>

6. Alternative Options Considered

6.1 The production of a Statement of Assurance is a statutory requirement on the Fire Authority. There are no alternative options to consider.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 There are no financial implications arising from the publication of the Statement of Assurance.

7.2 Northamptonshire County Council is required by statute to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts showing a comprehensive summary of the Council's overall financial position for the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016.

8. Risk and Business Continuity Management

8.1 *The production of a Statement of Assurance is a statutory requirement.*

a) Risk(s) associated with the proposal. - None

b) Risk(s) associated with not undertaking the proposal

Risk	Risk Rating
Government Intervention in the Service.	Amber
Negative impact on reputation.	Amber

9. List of Appendices

Appendix one: Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Authority Statement of Assurance.

Author:	Name: Assurance Manager, Group Manager Barry Mullan. Team: Fire & Rescue - Business Services Team.
Contact details:	Tel: 01604 797137 Fax: 01604 797070 Email: bmullan@northantsfire.org.uk
Background Papers:	IRMP 2013 - 2017
Does the report propose a key decision is taken?	NO
If yes, is the decision in the Forward Plan?	YES
Will further decisions be required? If so, please outline the timetable here	NO
Does the report include delegated decisions? If so, please outline the timetable here	NO
Is this report proposing an amendment to the budget and/or policy framework?	NO
Have the financial implications been cleared by the Strategic Finance Manager (SFM)? Have any capital spend implications been cleared by the Capital Investment Board	YES Name of SFM: Rosemary Pallot (21/11/2016)

(CIB)	
Has the report been cleared by the relevant Director?	YES Name of Director: Tony Ciaburro
Has the relevant Cabinet Member been consulted?	YES Cabinet Member: Andre Gonzalez De Savage
Has the relevant scrutiny committee been consulted?	NO Scrutiny Committee:
Has the report been cleared by Legal Services?	YES Name of solicitor: Richard Mc Adam
	Solicitor's comments:
Have any communications issues been cleared by Communications and Marketing?	YES Name of officer: Joni Ager
Have any property issues been cleared by Property and Asset Management?	YES Name of officer: James Wheeler and Damon Lawrenson
Are there any community safety implications?	NO
Are there any environmental implications:	NO
Are there any Health & Safety Implications:	NO
Are there any Human Resources Implications:	NO
Are there any human rights implications:	NO
Constituency Interest:	County wide