

# Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority



<b>MEETING</b>	Overview and Audit Committee
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	27 July 2016
<b>OFFICER</b>	Graham Britten, Director of Legal and Governance Mark Hemming, Deputy Director of Finance and Assets
<b>LEAD MEMBER</b>	Chairman of the Overview and Audit Committee
<b>SUBJECT OF THE REPORT</b>	<b>Annual Governance Statement 2015/16</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<p>The purpose of this report is to present the 2015/16 draft Annual Governance Statement (appended as an Annex to the report) for approval. This contains the progress on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2014/15 Annual Governance Statement and to highlight recommendations for 2016/17.</p> <p>Since the draft Annual Governance Statement was approved by directors for publication one objective set out in its Appendix B - adoption of a Communications Strategy - has been achieved and implementation commenced. The version submitted for approval has therefore been amended to reflect this. (shown as <del>strikethrough</del>)</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	Decision.
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the draft Annual Governance Statement (Annex) be approved as amended.</li> <li>2. That the progress on the implementation of recommendations of the previous Annual Governance Statement (Appendix A to the Annual Governance Statement) be acknowledged.</li> <li>3. That the priorities for 2016/17 (Appendix B to the Annual Governance Statement) be agreed as amended.</li> </ol>
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>	Any risk implications of completion or non-completion of the recommendations are included in the relevant report.
<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 came into

	<p>effect on 1 April 2015 changing the timetable for auditing and adopting statements of accounts and annual governance statements. The Director of Finance &amp; Assets is now required to publish a draft annual governance statement with the unaudited accounts.</p> <p>Regulation 6(1) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 requires the Committee to approve the annual governance statement in advance of it approving the statement of accounts.</p>
<b>CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF COLLABORATION</b>	No direct impact.
<b>HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>	There are no direct health and safety implications arising from the report.
<b>EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY</b>	There are no direct equality and diversity implications arising from this report.
<b>USE OF RESOURCES</b>	<p><b>Communication and consultation</b> The officers with responsibility for the areas audited have been responsible for supplying the information and responses necessary for this report.</p> <p><b>Progress monitoring</b> Further updates will be provided at future committee meetings.</p>
<b>PROVENANCE SECTION &amp; BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	<p>The Annual Governance Statement has been based upon the six core principles of good governance set out in the CIPFA/SOLACE guidance (2007, revised and updated 2012):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Focusing on the purpose of the Authority and on outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area.</li> <li>2. Members and officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles.</li> <li>3. Promoting values for the Authority and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.</li> <li>4. Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk.</li> <li>5. Developing the capacity and capability of Members and officers to be effective.</li> <li>6. Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.</li> </ol> <p>Report to Overview and Audit Committee of the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority</p>

	<p>held on 15 July 2015, Item 11:</p> <p><a href="http://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/7114/5572/3063/ITEM_1_1_Annual_Governance_Statement_2014-15_OA.compressed.pdf">http://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/7114/5572/3063/ITEM_1_1_Annual_Governance_Statement_2014-15_OA.compressed.pdf</a></p> <p>CIPFA / SOLACE 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government - Guidance Note for English Authorities'</p> <p><a href="http://www.solace.org.uk/knowledge/reports_guides/goodgovernance-England-2007-02.pdf">http://www.solace.org.uk/knowledge/reports_guides/goodgovernance-England-2007-02.pdf</a></p>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	<p>Annex – Draft Annual Governance Statement 2015/16.</p> <p>Appendix A to Annex – Progress of Annual Governance Statement 2014/15.</p> <p>Appendix B to Annex – Recommendations for Priorities for 2016/17.</p>
<b>TIME REQUIRED</b>	15 minutes.
<b>REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT</b>	<p>Graham Britten, Director of Legal and Governance  <a href="mailto:gbritten@bucksfire.gov.uk">gbritten@bucksfire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Mark Hemming, Deputy Director of Finance and Assets  <a href="mailto:mhemming@bucksfire.gov.uk">mhemming@bucksfire.gov.uk</a></p>