



# Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

<b>MEETING</b>	Overview and Audit Committee
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	22 July 2020
<b>OFFICER</b>	Graham Britten, Director of Legal and Governance Mark Hemming, 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 2019/20</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<p>The purpose of this report is to present the 2019/20 Annual Governance Statement (appended as an Annex to the report) for approval. It contains the progress on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2018/19 Annual Governance Statement and recommendations for 2020/2021.</p> <p>CIPFA and SOLACE published a revised framework document on governance: Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016 (2016 Guidance). This was a significantly revised version of the previous 2012 guidance. The new framework is taken from the International Framework: Good Governance in the Public Sector (CPIFA/IFAC 2014).</p> <p>The framework envisages that delivering good governance will be a continuous process of seven principles with a core of principles A and B permeating principles C to G.</p> <p>The Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 has been formatted to reflect those principles</p> <p>The seven principles are:</p> <p>Principle A - Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law.</p> <p>Principle B - Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>Principle C - Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits.</p> <p>Principle D - Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.</p> <p>Principle E - Developing the Authority's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the</p>

	<p>individuals within it.</p> <p>Principle F - Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.</p> <p>Principle G - Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	Decision.
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 be approved.</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 2020/21 (Appendix B to the Annual Governance Statement) be agreed</li> </ol>
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>	One of the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE framework is the management of risk through robust internal control and strong public financial management. The Annual Governance Statement details the management arrangements in place, as well as highlighting recent improvements and plans for future areas of development.
<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	<p>Regulations 6(1)(b) and 6(4)(b) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the Committee to approve an annual governance statement which must accompany the statement of accounts and be approved in advance of the approval of the statement of accounts.</p> <p>While the 2016 Guidance is the product of CIPFA and SOLACE, it amounts to statutory guidance as Regulation 6(4)(b) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 requires the Annual Governance Statement to be prepared in accordance with proper practices in relation to accounts.</p>
<b>CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DUTY TO COLLABORATE</b>	No direct impact. Each public body is required to approve its own Annual Governance Statement.
<b>HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>	There are no direct health and safety implications arising from the report.
<b>EQUALITY AND</b>	There are no direct equality and diversity implications

<b>DIVERSITY</b>	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>CIPFA / SOLACE 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government - Guidance Notes for English Authorities' 2016 Edition, copyrighted document accessible by this <a href="#">Link</a></p> <p>Following a review undertaken by CIPFA and SOLACE, in 2016, the 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework' was reissued. The document was based on the 'International Framework: Good Governance in the Public Sector (2014)' which included sustainable economic, societal and environmental outcomes as a key focus for governance processes and structure. CIPFA/SOLACE therefore revised its 6 principles to create 7 new principles which included specifically 'Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits'.</p> <p>The proposal that the Annual Governance Statement be reformatted by reference to the seven principles in the CIPFA/SOLACE "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework" (2016) was one of the agreed priorities in the Annual Governance Statement 2018/19</p> <p><a href="#">Report to the Overview and Audit Committee of the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority held on 17 July 2019, Item 9</a></p>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	<p>Annex 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2019/20.</p> <p>Appendix A to Annex – Progress against recommendations from the Annual Governance Statement 2018/19.</p> <p>Appendix B to Annex – Recommendations for Priorities for 2020/21.</p>
<b>TIME REQUIRED</b>	10 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>