

SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

Meeting	AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
Meeting Date	11 MARCH 2024
Report of	CLERK TO THE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
Report Sponsor(s)	MONITORING OFFICER
Subject	GOVERNANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN (GIP) 2023/24

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is a statutory requirement for the Authority to annually review its governance arrangements and systems of internal control, and to publish an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) separately alongside its Annual Statement of Accounts. The AGS 2022-23 was formally approved by the Committee at the 11 September 2023 Audit and Governance Committee meeting.

The Governance Improvement Plan (GIP) 2023-24 was also considered and approved by the Committee. Officers continue to routinely update the GIP, and progress towards demonstrating that the proposed actions identified have been implemented is monitored by the Audit and Governance Committee in accordance with the Committee's agreed work programme.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

Members are recommended to:

- a) Consider the updated Governance Improvement Plan (GIP) for 2023/24 and note the progress made to date.

CONTENTS

Main Report
Appendix A –Governance Improvement Plan 2023-24

BACKGROUND

1. The Authority has a Code of Corporate Governance which sets out its governance arrangements in accordance with best practice standards published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). The code is supported by a framework of internal control which encompasses all the systems, processes, and procedures. This is designed to ensure that the Authority carries out its business in an appropriate manner that is expected of a public body, and successfully manages and mitigates the risks to the achievement of its aims and objectives.
2. It is a statutory requirement for the Authority to conduct a review of the effectiveness of its governance arrangements and internal control systems at least once a year. The AGS should include any significant governance or internal control issues identified throughout the relevant financial year, together with the actions proposed to address these issues.
3. The Committee approved the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2022/23 and Governance Improvement Plan 2023/24 at the Audit and Governance Committee meeting on 11 September 2023.

GOVERNANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN (GIP) 2023/24

4. Officers continue to review the Governance Improvement Plan (GIP) 2023/24 on a quarterly basis. The updated GIP is attached at **Appendix A**.

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR ASPIRATIONS (tick all that apply)

- Be a great place to work**- we will create the right culture, values and behaviours to make this a brilliant place to work that is inclusive for all
- Put people first**- we will spend money carefully, use our resources wisely and collaborate with others to provide the best deal to the communities we serve
- Strive to be the best in everything we do**- we will work with others, make the most of technology and develop leaders to become the very best at what we can be

CONTRIBUTION TO SERVICE IMPROVEMENT

(tick all that apply to your report and add supporting information for each in the box below)

- [HMICFRS Inspection Framework e.g. Diagnostic area and/ or diagnostic questions](#)
- [SYFR Inspection report Areas for Improvement \(AFIs\)](#)
- [Fit for the Future Improvement Objectives](#)
- [Professional Standards for Fire & Rescue Services in England](#)
- [SYFR Service Plan 2023-24 Priorities](#)
- [SYFR Community Risk Management Plan 2021-24](#)

The issues identified in the Governance Improvement Plan are linked to AFIs identified in the SYFR Inspection Report.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION (tick relevant box)

- Yes
 No

If you have ticked 'Yes' please provide brief details in the box below and include the third party/parties it would involve:

CORPORATE RISK ASSESSMENT AND BUSINESS CONTINUITY IMPLICATIONS

10. The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) and Governance Improvement Plan (GIP) ensure that the Authority's governance arrangements are reviewed and well-managed. Reporting and monitoring of the Authority risks to Audit and Governance Committee demonstrates sound risk management.

EQUALITY ANALYSIS COMPLETED (tick relevant box)

- Yes

If you have ticked 'Yes' please complete the below comment boxes providing details as follows:

Summary of any Adverse Impacts Identified:	Key Mitigating Actions Proposed and Agreed:

- No
 N/A

If you have ticked 'No' or 'N/A' please complete the comments box below providing details of why an EA is not required/is outstanding:

This report does not relate to the introduction of a new policy, strategy or procedure.

HEALTH AND SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT COMPLETED

- Yes
 No
 N/A

If you have ticked 'No' or 'N/A' please complete the comments box below providing details of why a Health and Safety Risk Assessment is not required/is outstanding:

This report covers governance arrangements and does not require a H&S / risk assessment.

SCHEME OF DELEGATION

11. Under the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority [Scheme of Delegation](#) a decision *is required / *has been approved at Service level.

- Delegated Power Yes
 No

If yes, please complete the comments box indicating under which delegated power.

This report is not submitted under delegated powers. It relates to the procedural / governance arrangements of the Authority.

IMPLICATIONS

12. Consider whether this report has any of the following implications and if so, address them below: , Diversity, Financial, Asset Management, Environmental and Sustainability, Fleet, Communications, ICT, Health and Safety, Data Protection, Collaboration, Legal and Industrial Relations implications have been considered in compiling this report.

List of background documents		
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