



Northumberland County Council

Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

27 September 2023

Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service Annual Performance Report

Report of Councillor(s) Cllr Gordon Stewart, Cabinet Member for Looking After our Communities

Responsible Officer(s): Chief Fire Officer Graeme Binning

1. Link to Key Priorities of the Corporate Plan

Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service Annual Performance Report 2023-24 links closely to both achieving value for money and tackling inequalities priorities as detailed in the Corporate Plan.

Achieving value for money: Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service has a statutory responsibility to develop and publish a Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP), identifying fire and rescue related risks in Northumberland, and targeting resources effectively to prevent or mitigate those risks. With an aim to *'provide value for money through the provision of a lean, efficient and resilient service'* the Annual Performance Report 2023-24 ensures the Service achieves what it has set out in its plan. In addition, the Annual Performance Report provides an update on the Economic and Social Value of Fire and Rescue Services, which allows the Service to evaluate and understand the benefit and financial impact of its service delivery.

Tackling inequalities: Fire and rescue risk modelling indicates a strong correlation between fire-related incidents and deprivation. While the Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 provides detail on how the Service works in partnership and collaboration to identify and address inequality, the Annual Performance Report 2023-24 provides assurance that the Service is monitoring progress against its priorities.

2. Purpose of report

To present Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service Annual Performance Report 2023-24

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 To note content of the report, and to provide additional challenge and scrutiny where required.

4. Forward plan date and reason for urgency if applicable

Not applicable.

5. Background

- 5.1 Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service has a Policy Risk and Performance Department providing data, analysis and risk modelling to direct policy development and to inform the delivery of organisational programmes and projects.
- 5.2 This department is responsible for the development and implementation of a Performance and Assurance Framework (PAF) and the coordination of inspections and reviews. It is the PAF that ensures the Fire Authority effectively discharges its duties under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and meets its responsibility as detailed in the Fire and Rescue Framework for England 2018.
- 5.3 The PAF measures performance across the four key areas of service provision, corporate health, priority programmes and risk. To further support monitoring, a suite of core and service measures have been developed. Core measures assist in the monitoring of strategic performance, specifically relating to statutory responsibilities. Service measures are more operational in nature and generally measure how the Service delivers against its priorities.
- 5.4 Detailed performance reports are presented to Directorate Management Team (DMT) monthly, and the PAF is overseen by a Strategic Performance Board (SPB) which meets quarterly and is chaired by the Chief Fire Officer. Additional scrutiny is provided by an Assurance and Challenge Panel chaired by the Cabinet Member for Community Services and Fire Authority Chair.
- 5.5 Reflecting the value of 'excellence' as set out in the Corporate Plan, the Annual Performance Report 2023-24 supports the underpinning narrative as follows:
- "We strive for the highest quality delivery of our services. This means being accountable for our actions and delivering on our commitments. We share and celebrate what works, are open and learn from what doesn't and take pride in continually improving."*
- 5.6 The Annual Performance Report 2023-24 is presented to Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Community for consideration and assurance, and thereafter an updated report will be presented annually in September of each year.
- 5.7 To ensure transparency, Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service Annual Performance Report 2023-24 will be published on www.northumberlandfireandrescue.gov.uk

6. Options open to the Council and reasons for the recommendations

- 6.1 Not applicable.

7. Implications

Policy	Not applicable.
Finance and value for money	Not applicable.
Legal	The report provides assurance that the Fire Authority is meeting its statutory responsibilities as set out in the National Fire and Rescue Framework for England (2018)
Procurement	Not applicable.
Human resources	Not applicable.
Property	Not applicable.
The Equalities Act: is a full impact assessment required and attached?	No - not required at this point Equality Impact Assessments are developed alongside any policy development implemented in response to performance outcomes and are therefore not required for the Annual Performance Report itself.
Risk assessment	The Annual Performance Report presents performance against the Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 which is risk-based.
Crime and disorder	Deliberate primary and secondary fires are captured as core measures, with detail provided in the report.
Customer considerations	The Annual Performance Report presents performance against the Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 which is risk-based and community focused.
Carbon reduction	Not applicable.
Health and wellbeing	Performance of the Safe and Wellbeing Programme is captured in the Annual Performance Report and is directly related to the health and wellbeing of our communities.
Wards	(All Wards);

8. Background papers

Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service Annual Performance Report 2023/24

9. Links to other key reports already published

Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26

10. Author and Contact Details

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