

CHESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK (LCCG):

PRINCIPLE G: Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability

PRINCIPLE OWNERS(s):
 CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS
 TRANSFORMATION
 DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

G1 Implementing good practice in transparency

Writing and communicating reports for the public and other stakeholders in a fair, balanced and understandable style appropriate to the intended audience and ensuring that they are easy to access and interrogate

Striking a balance between providing the right amount of information to satisfy transparency demands and enhance public scrutiny while not being too onerous to provide and for users to understand

How Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service complies with this sub principle

The Corporate Communications Strategy sets out the approach the Service will take to communicating with the public and other stakeholders. It recognises the need for different approaches for different audiences and also the increased use of social media as a communications tool.

All Authority meetings are recorded supporting transparency.

The Authority provides an Annual Report which is public focused and easy to read and navigate. This report goes to every household within Cheshire Halton & Warrington and is published on the Service website.

Evidence - evidence links (any evidence held on local internal drives can be requested)

CFRS Communications Strategy - Local
[Corporate Communications Strategy 2012-2015](#)
[Annual Report](#)

[CFRS Website](#)

Assurance – where do you get assurances from?

All public facing information is published on CFRS website

G2 Implementing good practice in reporting

Reporting at least annually on performance, value for money and stewardship of resources to stakeholders in a timely and understandable way

Ensuring members and senior management own the results reported

Ensuring robust arrangements for assessing the extent to which the principles contained in this framework have been applied and publishing the results on this assessment, including an action plan for improvement and evidence to demonstrate good governance (the annual governance statement)

Ensuring that this framework is applied to jointly managed or shared service organisations as appropriate

Ensuring the performance information that accompanies the financial statements is prepared on a consistent and timely basis and the statements allow for comparison with other, similar organisations

How Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service complies with this sub principle

The CFRS public website includes details of performance, strategy, plans and financial statements. CFRS publish an Annual Report and distribute it to local households as well as publishing it on the website. The Report highlights key challenges and achievements from the year and includes performance and financial information set out in a simple but informative way. The report is agreed by Members and Senior Management before being published. Each unitary area has a Performance Group which meets quarterly to consider how the area is performing. The Group consists of both employees and Members for that local unitary area. The process for assessing the Authority against this framework is agreed by the Governance and Constitution Committee. Evidence is reviewed twice yearly and an action plan is maintained highlighting areas for improvement. Progress against the action plan is reported to Policy Approval Group and to Governance and Constitution Committee. The framework and the evidence supporting the assessment is included in the annual Statement of Assurance. Internal Audit review the assessment and evidence against at least two of the sections of the Code of Corporate Governance Framework each year and make recommendations for improvement accordingly.

The Service prepares and publishes Annual Governance Statement which incorporates all performance information in a timely structured format.

Evidence - evidence links (any evidence held on local internal drives can be requested)

Annual report
<http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/about-us/key-documents/annual-report>

Performance Statistics
<http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/about-us/performance-statistics>

Statement of Assurance: Governance and Constitution Committee July 16
[Governance and Constitution Committee on Wednesday, 6th July, 2016, 10.00 am - Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service](#)

[Annual Governance Statement](#)

Assurance – where do you get assurances from?

Governance and Constitution Committee
Cheshire Fire Authority
Internal Audit Strategy

G3	Assurance and effective accountability
<i>Ensuring that recommendations for corrective action made by external audit are acted upon</i>	
<i>Ensuring an effective internal audit service with direct access to members is in place, providing assurance with regard to governance arrangements and that recommendations are acted upon</i>	
<i>Welcoming peer challenge, reviews and inspections from regulatory bodies and implementing recommendations</i>	
<i>Gaining assurance on risks associated with delivering services through third parties and that this is evidenced in the annual governance statement</i>	
<i>Ensuring that when working in partnership, arrangements for accountability are clear and the need for wider public accountability has been recognised and met</i>	
How Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service complies with this sub principle	
<p>CFRS approve a three year audit strategy and an internal audit plan which is reviewed and refreshed annually which sets out the areas for scrutiny. Annually, at least two areas of the code of corporate governance are scrutinised by the internal audit team and recommendations are made for improvements. These outcomes and recommendations form part of the action plan for the Statement of Assurance.</p> <p>The Service participates in the ALARM benchmarking exercise and has taken part in operational peer assessments. The Service is set to be a pilot for the new regulatory peer assessment which is expected to take place in 2017.</p> <p>Grant Thornton Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) is the appointed external auditor for Cheshire Fire Authority and is responsible for completion of the following assurance activities.</p>	
Evidence - evidence links (any evidence held on local internal drives can be requested)	
CFRS Communications Strategy Corporate Communications Strategy 2012-2015	Internal & External Audit Opinions – Included in Statement of Assurance Statement of Assurance 2016-17
Assurance – where do you get assurances from?	
Statement of Assurance Annual Governance Statement Internal/External	