

Report to	Audit Committee
Date	15 June 2026
Lead Officer	Anthony Jones, Assistant Chief Fire Officer
Contact Officer	Mike Plant, Head of Planning, Performance and Transformation
Subject	Draft Annual Governance Statement 2025/26



PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To provide Members with a draft version of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority's (the Authority) Annual Governance Statement (AGS) relating to financial year 2025-26.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Annual Governance Statement provides assurance that the Authority has effective governance, risk management and internal control arrangements in place, in accordance with the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014, the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework, and relevant Welsh legislation including the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
3. During 2025–26, governance has been further strengthened, including enhanced oversight of risk, performance and programme delivery, and the establishment of a Culture Board in response to the Crest Advisory review.
4. A focused set of improvement actions for 2026–27 has been identified to ensure continued alignment with emerging Welsh Government expectations, inspection requirements and the Fire and Rescue National Framework

RECOMMENDATION

5. It is recommended that Members:
 - i) **Note the content of the Annual Governance Statement 2025-26; and**
 - ii) **Approve that the Annual Governance Statement 2025-26 be provided to Audit Wales in line with The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014**

BACKGROUND

6. Since 2010/11 all local government bodies have been required, by the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014, to prepare an Annual Governance Statement which is published as part of the statutory accounts.
7. The purpose of the AGS is to assess and demonstrate that there is a sound system of corporate governance throughout the organisation.

INFORMATION

8. The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 require the Authority to publish an AGS to demonstrate that;
 - i. Business is conducted in accordance with all relevant laws and regulations
 - ii. Public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for;
 - iii. Resources are used economically, efficiently and effectively to achieve agreed priorities which benefit local people

IMPLICATIONS

Well-being Objectives	The Annual Governance Statement supports the Authority's well-being objectives by ensuring that governance, risk management and decision-making arrangements align with the sustainable development principle and the delivery of long-term outcomes.
Budget	No direct budget implications. However, reporting allows the Authority to consider any potential impacts on budget due to unanticipated incident activity.
Legal	The Annual Governance Statement provides assurance that the Authority has effective governance, risk management and internal control arrangements in place, in accordance with the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014, the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework, and relevant Welsh legislation including the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
Staffing	No staffing implications.
Equalities/Human Rights/ Welsh Language	No implication identified.
Risks	All control measures above contribute to the management, and reduction of risks identified, and the governance of the controls in place.