



Internal Operating Plan 1st Apr 2022 to 31st Mar 2023

Action Plans: All

Delivery Plans: All

Produced: Sept. 13, 2023, 3:06 a.m.

This is Cleveland Fire Brigade's Internal Operating Plan which sets out the Authority's Improvement Actions 2022/23 that have been established to: further progress the achievement of the Authority's Strategic Goals; reflect the requirements of our Community Integrated Risk Management, People and Resource Plans 2022-26 and address any areas for improvement or development identified from our HMICFRS Inspection Self-Assessment 2021.

The actions will be reported to and monitored by the Brigade's Executive Leadership Team. and the Authority's Executive Committee.

Glossary of Terms

ACFOCP	Assistant Chief Fire Officer: Community Protection
ACFOSPR	Assistant Chief Fire Officer: Strategic Planning and Resources
CFA	Cleveland Fire Authority
CFB	Cleveland Fire Brigade
CFO	Chief Fire Officer
CIRMP	Community Integrated Risk Management Plan
ELT	Executive Leadership Team
FRA	Fire and Rescue Authority
FRS	Assistant Chief Fire Officer: Community Protection
HMICFRS	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services
NFCC	National Fire Chief's Council
NOG	National Operational Guidance

Strategic Planning

Strategic Planning

Action	Lead	Due Date	Status
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Professional, Proud, Passionate People

Health and Wellbeing

Action	Lead	Due Date	Status
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Health and Safety

Action	Lead	Due Date	Status
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Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Action	Lead	Due Date	Status
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Talent Management

Action	Lead	Due Date	Status
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Safer, Stronger Communities

Risk

Action	Lead	Due Date	Status
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Prevention

Action	Lead	Due Date	Status
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Protection

Action	Lead	Due Date	Status
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Emergency Response

Action	Lead	Due Date	Status
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Local and National Resilience

Action	Lead	Due Date	Status
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Efficient Sustainable Resources

Digital Transformation

Action	Lead	Due Date	Status
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Estates and Climate Change

Action	Lead	Due Date	Status
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Fleet and Climate Change

Action	Lead	Due Date	Status
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Equipment and Climate Change

Action	Lead	Due Date	Status
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Service and Productivity Reviews

Action	Lead	Due Date	Status
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Procurement

Action	Lead	Due Date	Status
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Business Continuity

Action	Lead	Due Date	Status
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Collaboration and Partnerships

Action	Lead	Due Date	Status
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Finance

Action	Lead	Due Date	Status
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ESR 90.1: Achieve an unqualified opinion on the financial statements

Ian Hayton

Sep 2022

Behind
Schedule

In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, all Local Authorities are normally required to produce an annual Statement of Accounts by 31st May. These regulations were temporarily relaxed and the deadline for 2021/22 was 31st July. The Fire Authority's draft accounts were published on the Authority's website on 24th June and presented to Audit and Governance Committee on 26th Aug 2022. The Financial Report presents the Authority's financial position for 2021/22 in a specified format and reflects the Outturn Strategy previously approved by the Fire Authority.

The Authority was informed by its external auditors, Mazars that their annual report would not be published by the deadline of 30th Sep 2022. The reasons for the delay were due to outstanding work relating to:

1. property, plant and equipment that could not be completed by Nov 2022; and
2. the Net Defined Benefit Liability (Pensions) that could not be completed until assurances had been received from the Pension Fund auditor, which is a different audit firm.

The audit position has been explained to the public on the Brigade's website and progress reports from the External Auditor, Mazars have been provided to the Audit and Governance Committee and Fire Authority on a regular basis. The latest audit position was provided by Mazars to the Audit and Governance on 30th Jun 2023.

This indicated that there was only one outstanding matter which related to the annual Pension Fund assurance letter which was due by end of Nov 2022 but advised that there were no material issues arising from the Pension Fund Auditor's work relating to the 2021/22 financial statements. A revised completion date for the Audit had now been provided by the Pension's Auditor of Sep 2023.

Mazars stated that in relation to the 2021/22 audit of the financial statements:

- they still anticipate issuing an unqualified audit opinion
- the delays are national issues beyond the Authority's control
- the issues causing the delays are all in relation to technical accounting, none of which will have an impact on the resources available to the Authority or its underlying financial position.



ESR 91.1: Achieve an unqualified opinion on Value for Money	Ian Hayton	Sep 2022	Behind Schedule
<p>The delays relating to the completion of the Audit relating to the Statement of Accounts 2021/22 (as explained in Project ESR90.1) have also resulted in Mazars being unable to fully provide an opinion on value for money. The draft value for money statement however, that was presented to the Audit and Governance Committee on 18th Nov 2022 gives a draft value for money opinion from Mazars based on audit work to date. This stated 'we have not identified any significant weaknesses in arrangements that require us to make a recommendation however we continue to undertake work on the Authority's arrangements. As reported to the Audit and Governance on 30th Jun 2023 this position remains the same.</p>			

Climate Change

Action	Lead	Due Date	Status
<p> ⓘ Information only valid at the time of printing Sept. 13, 2023, 3:06 a.m.</p>			