

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Meeting to be held on Monday 19 February 2018

HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY, FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES (HMICFRS) – PROGRESS TOWARDS INSPECTION - BRIEFING (Appendices 1 and 2 refer)

Contact for further information:

Deputy Chief Fire Officer Justin Johnston – Tel. 01772 866801

Executive Summary

This report deals with the following:

1. A summary of the Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) progress towards inspection;
2. Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) inspection timetable;
3. LFRS position regarding its preparation for the inspectorate.

HMICFRS will assess and report on the efficiency, effectiveness and people of the 45 Fire and Rescue Services in England.

- Effectiveness: how effective is the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) at keeping people safe and secure from fire and other risks?
- Efficiency: how efficient is the FRS at keeping people safe and secure from fire and other risks?
- People: how well does the FRS look after its people?

The Lead Inspector for the Fire Service Inspectorate programme is Zoe Billingham, Matt Parr is the Inspector for the Northern Region and David Dryburgh is the Service Liaison Lead for LFRS. There will be three tranches of inspection, tranche 1 (Table 1 below) takes place during summer 2018, tranche 2 during autumn/winter 2018 and tranche 3 during spring 2019. Pilots are taking place (May – June 2018) in West Yorkshire, Suffolk and Staffordshire FRS. The inspection is not aimed at the Governance of the FRS but at tactical delivery, therefore actual Member involvement will be minimal. The Chairman of the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) will most likely be interviewed as part of the inspection process and the CFA will be kept fully briefed.

LFRS will be inspected in summer 2018 (tranche 1).

An Audit Assurance Team (AAT) led by the Area Manager Tony Crook has been established.

The team will support HMICFRS in:

- the audit and assessment of performance against the Inspection Criteria;
- overseeing the coordination, analysis and presentation of information to HMICFRS, Service Management Team and the Combined Fire Authority;

- acting as a key point of contact for LFRS with the inspectorate throughout the entire inspection process, for example producing data and information as required by the inspectorate, facilitating inspectorate requests during inspections and contributing to the accurate outcomes for LFRS.

Recommendation

The Authority is asked to note the report.

Information

1. A summary of the Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) progress towards inspection

The Policing and Crime Act 2017 sets out that HMICFRS will inspect and report on the efficiency and effectiveness of Fire and Rescue Authorities in England. In July 2017, HMICFRS extended its remit to include inspections of England's Fire and Rescue Services. They will assess and report on the efficiency, effectiveness and people of the 45 Fire and Rescue Services in England.

- Effectiveness: how effective is the FRS at keeping people safe and secure from fire and other risks?
- Efficiency: how efficient is the FRS at keeping people safe and secure from fire and other risks?
- People: how well does the FRS look after its people?

The HMICFRS' inspection programme for Fire and Rescue Authorities in England is still subject to the approval of the Home Secretary and the consultation to HMICFRS inspection methodology closed on the 19th February 2018. (See Appendix 2 for LFRS feedback on the consultation).

HMICFRS may also undertake further inspections at any time (likely to be thematic) of any or all Fire and Rescue Services in England.

The HMICFRS' inspection will be developed with the fire and rescue service. It will be designed to promote improvement and to identify all aspects of the excellent work undertaken by fire and rescue services. HMICFRS will approach the inspection on a no surprises basis and experts from across the Service will be fundamental to the delivery of the inspections.

The Lead Inspector for the Fire Service Inspectorate programme is Zoe Billingham, Matt Parr will be the Inspector for the Northern Region and David Dryburgh is the Service Liaison Lead for LFRS. There will be three tranches of inspection, tranche 1 (table 1 below) during summer 2018, tranche 2 during autumn/winter 2018 and tranche 3 during spring 2019. Pilots are taking place May – June in West Yorkshire, Suffolk and Staffordshire FRS.

The inspection is not aimed at the Governance of FRS but at tactical delivery, therefore actual Member involvement will be minimal. The Chairman of the CFA will most likely be interviewed as part of the inspection process and the CFA will be kept fully briefed.

1. Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) inspection timetable

Table 1

Tranche 1 – Summer 2018
Surrey
Hampshire
Isle of Wight
Lancashire
Cheshire
Warwickshire
Avon
Isles of Scilly
Hereford and Worcestershire
Cornwall
Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Hertfordshire
Kent
Lincolnshire

2. LFRS position regarding its preparation for the inspectorate

An Audit Assurance Team (AAT) led by the Area Manager Tony Crook has been established. The team is enhanced by Station Managers Ian Armistead and Julian Williams and Watch Manager Alex Shaw. The AAT are based at Service Headquarters.

The team is responsible for the Service response to the new Home Office inspection regime, to be completed by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

The team will support HMICFRS in:

- the audit and assessment of performance against the Inspection Criteria;

- overseeing the coordination, analysis and presentation of information to HMICFRS, Service Management Team and the Combined Fire Authority;
- acting as a key point of contact for LFRS with the inspectorate throughout the entire inspection process, for example producing data and information as required by the inspectorate, facilitating inspectorate requests during inspections and contributing to the accurate outcomes for LFRS;
- Preparing for inspection is a named project within LFRS;
- LFRS chair a North West HMICFRS group which aims to share best practice and consider any lessons learnt from the West Yorkshire FRS pilot.

The team ensure that all LFRS staff are kept informed of the HMICFRS inspection process. See Appendix 1 – email to staff.

Key dates:

- 31 January 2018 - London HMICFRS Conference attended by the AAT;
- 19 February 2018 - proposed fire and rescue services inspection programme and framework 2018/19 consultation return by LFRS;
- March 2018 onwards - meetings with LFRS Service Liaison Lead (Dave Dryburgh);
- March 2018 onwards - drafting LFRS self-assessment;
- April/May 2018 - gap analysis and action plan;
- LFRS Inspection week summer 2018 (month TBC by HMICFRS);
- Inspection outcome/ HMICFRS report. TBC

Business Risk

High – Members need to be aware of the judgement score that can be given and how this could impact on LFRS reputation. Inadequate planning, resources and commitment could potentially result in LFRS not being able to provide adequate evidence to HMICFRS. This would leave the Service exposed to criticism both internally and externally. As highlighted in 2 above LFRS is preparing itself for the inspection.

Environmental Impact

None

Equality and Diversity Implications

None, however culture and people will be considered during the inspection.

HR Implications

None, however people will be considered during the inspection.

Financial Implications

Minimal – Officer time.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate:		