

**LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY  
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Meeting to be held on 26 November 2018

**HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY AND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES (HMICFRS) INSPECTION OF LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

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**Executive Summary:**

In 2017 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMIC) remit for inspecting all Police Forces in England was extended by the Home Secretary to also include independently inspecting all 45 Fire and Rescue Services in England. They would become HMICFRS (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services) and the 45 English Fire Services would all be inspected over a two year period.

The inspection programme is designed to promote improvement, identify all aspects of the excellent work undertaken by fire and rescue services and helps to demonstrate to the public what level of 'value for money' service their Fire and Rescue Service is delivering.

The inspection is focused primarily on three core areas; efficiency, effectiveness and people. Each area will be graded as Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement or Inadequate.

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) was allocated in the first tranche of 15 Fire and Rescue Services to be inspected and was consequently inspected week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

**Recommendation**

The Planning Committee is asked to note and endorse the report.

**Background**

During spring 2018, three Fire and Rescue Services were chosen by the HMICFRS as Pilot Fire Services to help shape the new Fire Service inspection programme (West Yorkshire, Suffolk and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service).

The lead HMICFRS Inspector for the Northern Region is Her Majesty's Inspector Matt Parr, who has vast experience in inspecting Police Forces and the Royal Navy. The HMICFRS Service Liaison Lead (SLL) appointed to lead the inspection team in Lancashire is David Dryburgh, an experienced Fire Officer from North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service. His inspection team was made up of between ten and twelve inspectors who had a range of skills and expertise from across the Fire, Police and Civil Service sector.

The inspection programme will span approximately a two year period and be phased into three tranches. Each tranche of inspections will contain 15 Fire and Rescue Services. Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service were placed in the first tranche and were consequently inspected in July 2018.

In order for the HMICFRS to fully understand LFRS, our planning strategy and our journey to get here, the inspection consisted of a number pre-inspection visits by our SLL. He visited a number of stations and key strategic meetings to help gain an insight and understanding into our planning, performance and delivery of our Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP).

We were also required to undertake a self-assessment and provide a number of data set returns based on questions around efficiency, effectiveness and people. The pre-inspection work was designed to identify key lines of enquiry that the HMICFRS would investigate further during our inspection week.

The Executive Board led by our Chief Fire Officer and accompanied by the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) Chair were required to present a strategic briefing to HMI Matt Parr and his Inspection team two weeks prior to the inspection week to outline our strategic vision and future planning. This provided the HMICFRS with an opportunity to question the Executive Board on our self-assessment submission and identify further key lines of enquiry to be investigated during our inspection week.

The first tranche of inspections have now been completed and the Fire and Rescue Services involved have received their initial preliminary reports. We have reviewed our report for accuracy and any observations identified have been fed back to the HMICFRS inspection team. The final reports are due to be published publicly in early December 2018.

The second tranche of inspections will commence in November 2018, continuing into early New Year, where they will then be moderated and their results published prior to tranche three inspections commencing in the spring of 2019.

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service has built a professional relationship with our SLL throughout the inspection process and we are continuing to engage with him on a regular basis post-inspection, to help maintain that relationship and support ongoing service improvements.

An internal and external communications strategy to support the release of the report in December is being designed and this will continue to help embed the HMICFRS inspection programme into business as usual working for the Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service and further enhance our strong community engagement.

A further briefing of the report is scheduled for the December CFA meeting.

### **Business Risk**

The outcomes of the HMICFRS report and future reports could potentially have a positive or negative impact on a Fire and Rescue Services reputation based upon the findings.

Any Fire and Rescue Services that performs poorly during their HMICFRS inspections could face further inspections.

### **Sustainability or Environmental Impact**

None.

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

The employment / organisational make-up of staff from under-represented group's forms part of the HMICFRS report. The Service's recruitment and selection processes and how it aims to ensure its workforce is representative of its communities has been analysed and HMICFRS findings will be reported.

## **HR Implications**

None.

## **Financial Implications**

Outcomes of HMICFRS inspections could potentially mean Fire and Rescue Services need to adapt or undertake new workstreams to react to any areas of improvement identified during their inspections. This potentially, could require Fire and Rescue Service to assess its financial planning strategy and the allocation of departmental budgets to meet this requirement.

## **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

### **List of Background Papers**

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