

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Meeting to be held on 17 December 2018

HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY AND FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES - INSPECTION OF LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Contact for further information: Deputy Chief Fire Officer Justin Johnston
Telephone: 01772 866801

Executive Summary

In 2017 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (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 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) 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) were allocated in the first tranche of 15 Fire and Rescue Services to be inspected and were consequently inspected week commencing 9th - 13th July 2018.

The HMICFRS reports for LFRS and all services inspected within tranche one will be published on the 14th December 2018. An overview presentation from DCFO Johnston will be provided to Members at the meeting.

Decision Required

The Combined Fire Authority (CFA) 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 spans approximately a two year period and is phased into three tranches. Each tranche of inspections contains 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 visit's 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 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 Senior Management 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 on the 14th of December 2018 and can then be found from this date on the HMICFRS website:

<https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmicfrs/fire-and-rescue-services/lancashire/>

DCFO Johnston will provide an overview presentation to CFA members at the 17th December 2018 meeting.

The second tranche of inspections commenced during 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 a 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 Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service and further enhance our strong community engagement.

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 underrepresented group's forms part of the HMICFRS report. The Services 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 Justin Johnston Tel. 01772 866801
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate:		