

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Meeting to be held on 18 March 2019

HMICFRS - INSPECTION OF LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

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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 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.

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service were inspected in July 2018, in the first tranche of inspections and subsequently our HMICFRS report was publicised in December 2018.

Tranche two inspections have now concluded and tranche three inspections will commence in May 2019.

Once the results from tranches two and three have been publicised, it is anticipated a 'State of Fire Services' report will be issued in December 2019 by Sir Thomas Winsor, who will summarise the national findings from within the sector.

Recommendation

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

Background

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Services HMICFRS inspection report was published publicly in December 2018. We were graded against the three core pillars of the inspection programme; efficiency, effectiveness and people.

We were graded as 'good' overall for each of the three core pillars and 'good' against ten of the eleven sub-diagnostics, which formed each of the three core pillars.

Lancashire Fire and Rescue were the only Service in the first tranche to receive an 'outstanding' grading for how we promote our culture and values.

The report highlighted our areas of best practice and we didn't receive any formal areas for improvement. The report did however guide us to consider the following three areas;

- The service should ensure that it has allocated sufficient resources to a prioritised and risk-based inspection programme.
- The service should assure itself that it is making the most of collaboration opportunities and that they provide value for money.
- The service should put in place an open and fair process to identify, develop and support high potential staff and aspiring leaders.

We have already begun to further evaluate these areas and have drafted an initial action plan for delivering and measuring our improvements against them. To ensure we deliver these improvements, they will be embedded into our Annual Service Plan and report to Corporate Programme Board for monitoring and scrutiny.

We are currently required to undertake quarterly data set returns for the HMICFRS. This involves providing the HMICFRS data teams with an array of data, ranging from overtime costings to fire engine availability. This will be an on-going requirement to assist the HMICFRS in determining our efficiency and effectiveness as a service. It also provides a platform for making national comparisons.

The reports for the tranche two inspections are due to be published around May/ June 2019. Early indications suggest that the findings are similar to those identified in tranche one inspections, notably around protection and the people pillar.

Tranche three inspections will begin around May 2019 and should be concluded by July 2019.

We are continuing to embed the HMICFRS into the service and horizon scan emerging themes from within the sector.

We continue to build on our professional relationship with our HMICFRS Service Liaison Lead (SLL). We have regular engagement with our SLL and he will continue to visit both strategic and district level activities to assess how we are delivering effective and efficient services for the people of Lancashire.

Business Risk

Outcomes of HMICFRS local and national reports could result in Lancashire Fire and Rescue being required to undertake further workstreams around emerging risks and issues. This may require flexibility in our approach to planning and preparing for future HMICFRS inspections and continuing to conduct our own self-assessment exercises, to ensure we remain committed to moving forward as a service.

Environmental Impact

None.

Equality and Diversity Implications

None

HR Implications

None.

Financial Implications

None.

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: N/A		