

**LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Meeting to be held on 25 November 2019

HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY AND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES - 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 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.

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

Tranche two inspections concluded with reports being published in June 2019. Tranche three inspections have all been completed and reports for this final group of fire and Rescue Services are expected in December 2019.

Lancashire Fire and Rescue remain the only Service in both tranches 1 and 2 to be graded as at least 'good' against every sub-diagnostic and receive an 'outstanding' grade in one.

Once the results from tranche three have been publicised it is anticipated a 'State of Fire and Rescue' report will also be issued by Sir Thomas Winsor, who will summarise the national findings from within the sector. This report is now anticipated to be published in early 2020.

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 continue to evaluate these areas and are working towards the initial action plan for delivering and measuring our improvements against them. To ensure we deliver these improvements, they 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 information, 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 most recent data set return to the HMICFRS was submitted on the 8th November 2019.

The inspectorate is taking the opportunity to seek feedback from the sector following the first series of inspections. Whilst the related briefing sessions strongly indicate that the core areas of effectiveness, efficiency and people will remain steadfast there is opportunity to support the next phase of inspections. LFRS is taking the opportunity to shape the detail of future data returns and inspection areas of focus through the consultation process that will conclude at the end of November 2019.

All fire and rescue services were appointed with a HMICFRS key contact in the format of Service Liaison Lead, the HMICFRS post holder with responsibility for LFRS liaison has moved to a new position within the inspectorate. It is understood that the recruitment of a replacement will conclude imminently and a schedule of inductions, meetings and visits to LFRS has been drafted in readiness for their appointment.

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	
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate:		