

**LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY  
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Meeting to be held on Monday 13 July 2020

**HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY AND FIRE &  
RESCUE SERVICES (HMICFRS) UPDATE**

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**Executive Summary**

This paper provides an interim update on the direction being taken by HMICFRS in relation to the future inspection framework.

**Recommendation**

Planning Committee is asked to note the content of the report.

**Information**

The second HMICFRS inspection of Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) was due to be conducted in April/May 2020. This was suspended due to the Covid-19 outbreak and the recall of HMICFRS seconded staff to their own fire and rescue services in order to support the planning and management of response during the pandemic.

Throughout the pandemic period LFRS' Service Liaison Officer has maintained contact with the HMICFRS' Service Liaison Lead, Jo Hayden by means of two-weekly telephone conversations.

Whilst the Service Liaison Officer will return to the HMICFRS with effect from 29 June 2020, there will be an ensuing period of time where the HMICFRS will need to undertake work to recruit to vacant roles within the inspection teams, meaning that a full inspection is not expected until much later into 2021.

However, early indications suggest that a Covid-19 Thematic review is likely to occur and whilst confirmation is awaited, the Service is making preparations in readiness for:

1. The Data Return request (postponed from May) and likely to incorporate Covid-19 specific data sources. A subsequent Data Return in October this year bringing us back into the planned HMICFRS data rhythm.
2. A Covid-19 Thematic inspection of all FRS between July and October 2020.

3. A Thematic report being published in January 2021 on the findings of the Covid-19 inspection.
4. A HMICFRS 'return to work strategy' that involves the use of Microsoft Teams to provide an engagement tool for use with fire and rescue services.
5. A return to business as usual by July 2021.

The Covid-19 inspection is thought likely to be a sub-diagnostic within the wider inspection framework and framed around the pillars of efficiency, effectiveness and people. It would be reasonable to expect that such an inspection would consider delivery of prevention, protection and response activities during the period, provisions made for employee welfare, and work conducted under the tri-partite agreement and in support of the Lancashire Resilience Forum partnership.

### **Financial Implications**

No financial implications expected.

### **Sustainability or Environmental Impact**

N/A

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

N/A

### **Human Resource Implications**

N/A

### **Business Risk Implications**

The thematic inspection will make an assessment of LFRS' response to and support of, our communities during the pandemic.

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

### **List of Background Papers**

| Paper  | Date | Contact |
|--|------|---------|
| None   |      |         |
| Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate: |      |         |
|  |      |         |