

## **LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Meeting to be held on 16 November 2020

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

Contact for further information:  
A/DCFO Ben Norman - Telephone 01772 866801

#### **Executive Summary**

This is an update regards the future planning and intentions of the HMICFRS in a post Covid-19 environment.

#### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to note the report for information.

#### **Information**

The Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspection of LFRS was due to be conducted in April/May 2020. This was suspended due to the recall of staff within the HMICFRS returning to their own Fire and Rescue Services to plan and manage the implications of the Covid-19 outbreak.

During this period our Service Liaison Officer has maintained contact with Service Liaison Lead (SLL), Jo Hayden, by having two weekly conversations.

Jo Hayden returned to the HMICFRS on 29 June this year, however there will be a period of time during which the HMICFRS will continue work to re-populate their inspection teams, meaning that a full inspection is not expected to take place until far into 2021.

#### **Covid-19 Thematic Inspection**

HMICFRS are legislated to report on Fire and Rescue Services annually and announced, as expected, that they would be conducting a Covid-19 Thematic Inspection on all Fire and Rescue Services. This would be an ungraded sub-diagnostic under the forthcoming but delayed round 2 inspection programme.

The inspection, which occurred during late September, involved a data return and self-assessment survey followed by digital interviews with key staff members. The HMICFRS SLL met, via Microsoft Teams, with the GM Prevention and Protection, GM Response and Emergency Planning, Director of People and Development, Director of Corporate Services, GM Training and Operational Review, and Head of Safety, Health and Environment as well as the Chief Fire Officer and Combined Fire Authority Chairman.

The inspection was light touch and looked at how Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service delivered its functions safely and how it worked for the greater good of the community alongside partners.

The inspection took place over two weeks commencing 28 September. The inspection of other Fire and Rescue Services will continue and conclude in December, at which point the Service will receive a letter from HMICFRS detailing results.

A full thematic report covering all Services should be released in January 2021.

As yet there are no indications as to when the round two inspections will commence. This will depend on the Covid-19 situation nationally.

More recently, the Service has completed a data return which was backdated to May and covered the 2019 winter and 2020 summer period. This has been followed by the October 2020 data return as per the original data schedule.

### **Financial Implications**

No financial implications

### **Sustainability or Environmental Impact**

N/A

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

N/A

### **Human Resource Implications**

N/A

### **Business Risk Implications**

N/A

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

#### **List of Background Papers**

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