

## **LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY**

Meeting to be held on Monday 22nd February 2021

### **HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY AND FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES (HMICFRS) UPDATE (Appendix 1 refers)**

Contact for further information:

ACFO Ben Norman - Telephone 01772 866801

#### **Executive Summary**

This paper provides an overview of the recent Covid Thematic report outcomes and detail of imminent publications due from HMICFRS, along with latest update on the second round of inspections as scheduled for 2021/22.

#### **Recommendation**

For noting by the Authority.

#### **Information**

HMICFRS completed the Thematic Inspection of Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) in September 2020. On 22 January 2021, our thematic report (attached as appendix 1) was released alongside a [covering national report](#) which summarised the findings across the sector. This was the first of three reports expected from HMICFRS in the first quarter of 2021.

#### **LFRS Thematic Inspection.**

LFRS received a positive inspection from HMICFRS.

The inspection, which occurred during late September 2020, involved a data return and self-assessment survey followed by digital interviews with key staff members. The HMICFRS Service Liaison Lead (SLL) met, via Microsoft Teams, with the Chief Fire Officer and Chairman of the Combined Fire Authority, Director of People and Development, Director of Corporate Services, Group Manager (GM) Prevention and Protection, GM Response and Emergency Planning, GM Training and Operational Review, and Head of Safety, Health and Environment.

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

The report notes how prevention and protection work continued, albeit in a modified capacity and how LFRS worked with its partners in the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) providing structure, support and logistics.

LFRS successfully engaged with unions such as the Fire Brigade Union and Unison and was able to put in place effective plans in line with requests from partners in the LRF, many of which came under the tripartite agreement. These activities included antigen testing, face fitting, assisting vulnerable people and packing/repacking food. This differs from the HMICFRS National report which highlights areas of difficulty in reaching these agreements in some other FRS.

The Service was also praised for wellbeing support to staff which was supported by all levels of management and our ability to communicate with staff at all levels using a variety of innovative methods.

LFRS was graded 'outstanding' in the round 1 inspections for culture and values. This further positive result arising from the Thematic Inspection will contribute to our grading under the round 2 inspection.

### Further Reports Due

The second report to be produced will be the HMICFRS findings of the phase 1 Inquiry into Grenfell Tower. This is expected on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and will focus on the recommendations made in the Inquiry and may provide opportunities for learning within LFRS.

The third will be the annual State of Fire and Rescue report; now due in March 2021 and expected to focus upon improvement since the round 1 inspection as well as encompassing the recently published Thematic Inspection outcomes.

The Audit Assurance team will take in to consideration the findings of the national report and establish a position from which we can assess the performance of LFRS ahead of the round two inspection.

### **Round 2 Inspection planning**

As per previous, there are three tranches with the first starting January 2021.

The second tranche (within which sits LFRS) runs from September 2021 until February 2022, and the third and final tranche will run from March 2022 to September 2022.

Based on latest information available, it is reasonable to expect that our report would be published in summer 2022 and tranche three reports in winter 2022, followed by the third State of Fire and Rescue Report in 2023.

Our document and self-assessment request will occur around May/June 2021. This is in addition to six-monthly data requests each May and October.

The Audit Assurance Team previously conducted a gap analysis of the Service using the lines of enquiry that the inspection team will use in the round 2 inspection. Given that improvements have been delivered collaboratively and innovations delivered in response to the changed operating environment, work has commenced to refresh our internal assessment to ensure we are best positioned to provide the most robust evidence base to the inspectors.

### **Financial Implications**

N/A

### **Sustainability or Environmental Impact**

N/A

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

N/A

### **Human Resource Implications**

N/A

### **Business Risk Implications**

Failure to prepare adequately presents a potential reputational risk.

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

### **List of Background Papers**

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