

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Meeting to be held on 12 July 2021

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

Contact for further information: Assistant Chief Fire Officer Ben Norman

Executive Summary

This is an update regarding the intended Inspection of Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) from week commencing 22 November 2021 and the work being undertaken by Organisational Assurance to prepare for the Inspection.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note and endorse the update.

Information

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 HMICFRS returning to their own services to plan and manage the implications of the Covid-19 outbreak.

During this period, our Service Liaison Officer has maintained contact with our Service Liaison Lead, Jo Hayden by having bi-weekly conversations.

Jo Hayden is currently concluding the inspection of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service after which her engagement with LFRS will begin. Engagement activities are now expected to begin in August 2021 and will include station and department visits, meeting senior management and reviewing the work undertaken after our previous report in 2018.

Furthermore, we have now received our inspection dates. The inspection will start from the week commencing 22 November 2021. The inspection will take place physically, but some elements will be digital depending on the progress of measures that monitor the infection rates. Our inspection will conclude on 21 January 2022 which includes a three-week break between 20 December 2021 and 14 January 2022, after which there will be a debrief between the HMICFRS and the Chief Fire Officer. Our resulting report will be expected in the latter months of 2022.

Currently we have continued engagement with Jo Hayden and have utilised learning from the 2020 Pandemic Thematic Inspection alongside various reports such as “State of Fire Rescue 2020” to refresh preparation work that begun early 2020 before the pandemic interrupted progress. Going forward this will inform our next stage of preparation. The planned work includes:

1. Planning and Implementing reality testing across all departments and Fire Stations;
2. The writing of a strategic brief and presentation to be delivered to the HMICFRS in week 1;
3. An additional Document request and data return planned for in October.
4. A revised internal communications strategy;
5. Identification of areas most at risk of receiving a ‘requires improvement’ grade;
6. Identification of areas of best practice.

In order to facilitate the work and learning, the existing Service Liaison Officer resource has moved to the new Improvement and Innovation team from Audit Assurance and will undertake the work as part of Organisational Assurance. A further uplift of 1 temporary Station Manager (non-flexi) has been added to achieve the work in a suitable time frame.

Financial Implications

One temporary Station Manager (non-flexi, development rate, 2006 FFPS) additional post for 6 months at a cost of:
= £28311

This will create a small number of supervisory acting opportunities to backfill established posts and result in the temporary reduction of one FF (competent, 2006 FFPS) for 6 months.
= £21818

Total increase cost = £6493

Sustainability or Environmental Impact

n/a

Equality and Diversity Implications

n/a

Human Resource Implications

n/a

Business Risk Implications

The inspection will monitor LFRS's direction of travel since 2018, it could cause reputational damage if it is perceived that we have not maintained or improved on the previous inspection outcomes.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

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