

**LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Meeting to be held on 15 November 2021

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

Contact for further information: Assistant Chief Fire Officer Ben Norman
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Table 1 Executive Summary and Recommendations

Executive Summary

This report provides an update in terms of the ongoing preparations for HMICFRS inspection, the inspection process, and the expected timeframe for the report being published.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note and endorse the update.

Information

The 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 services to plan and manage the implications of the Covid-19 outbreak. The inspection is now scheduled for week commencing 22 November 2021.

In terms of preparations, the Organisational Assurance team have been liaising with departmental heads to ensure that ongoing work concerning items identified at the previous inspection has been prioritised effectively and demonstrable progress made.

The strategic brief is being developed and will be delivered during the first week of inspection. The narrative for this brief provides an opportunity to highlight distance travelled for areas that were identified as 'areas for development' from the previous inspection, as well as key areas of strength, potentially including some areas where LFRS are demonstrating sector best practise.

The inspection itself commences 22 November 2021, over six weeks in total, and is expected to be delivered using a hybrid approach i.e., some weeks will be in person and some elements will be delivered virtually. This has moved on from tranche one of the inspection process, which was completely virtual. After the conclusion of week four (week commencing 13 December), there is a three-week break prior to recommencement for weeks five and six, from 10 January 2022. A debrief is held in week eight.

In terms of reports, the first tranche of inspections is due to be published early December 2021, along with the State of Fire and Rescue 2021 report. Tranche two reports, including LFRS, are expected sometime in Summer 2022.

Business Risk

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.

Environmental Impact

None identified

Equality and Diversity Implications

None identified

HR Implications

None identified

Financial Implications

One temporary Station Manager (non-flexi) additional post

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Table 2 Details of any background papers

Paper:	none
Date:	
Contact:	
Reason for inclusion in Part 2 if appropriate:	