

Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

Meeting to be held on 3 October 2022

His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services' (HMICFRS) Update

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Executive Summary

This is an update relating to the Inspection of Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (formerly Her Majesty's Inspectorate) (HMICFRS).

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report for information.

Information

HMICFRS' inspection of LFRS commenced 22 November 2021 and concluded on 24 January 2022 with an interview with the Chief Fire Officer. The inspection took place over 6 weeks but was interrupted by the Christmas break. The Inspection took a 'hybrid' approach with interviews taking place on Teams but other activities, such as reality testing took place in person with our staff. In total HMICFRS spoke to around 100 staff and gathered over 1000 pieces of evidence.

The reports have now been released for Tranche 2. LFRS performed exceptionally well across all 11 diagnostics and scored 'good' in all three pillars: Effectiveness, Efficiency and People. The Service received an 'Outstanding' in Culture and Values. It is important to highlight that whilst some Fire Rescue Services improved in some areas, largely speaking most services have lost gradings due to the inspection being more detailed. Furthermore, the second round of inspections detailed the direction of travel, meaning that where gradings have remained the same an improvement has been demonstrated to maintain them.

His Majesty's Inspector of Fire and Rescue Services, Matt Parr said:

"I congratulate Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service on its excellent performance across all three areas of our assessment. Since its last inspection in 2018, it has improved in almost all areas.

"Importantly for the public, the service is good at understanding and preventing fires and other risks, as well as good at protecting people and responding to fires and other emergencies, and major and multi-agency incidents. It has improved consultation about its community plan.

“The service is outstanding at promoting the right culture and values and has developed a talent management process. It has a good understanding of its future financial challenges and has identified savings and investment opportunities.

“We look forward to seeing the results of further improvements at our next inspection.

The report is available [here](#).

Full link: [Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service congratulated for excellent performance - HMICFRS \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/lancashire-fire-and-rescue-service-congratulated-for-excellent-performance/).

HMICFRS have established that they will now conduct a full round 3 inspections in a similar way to the round 2 inspections and will start in 2023. As of yet it is unknown whether the tranches will remain the same and therefore it is difficult to ascertain when the next inspection of LFRS will take place. It has been confirmed however that they will continue with a hybrid approach. Learning has been recorded from round 2 and will inform our journey towards outstanding.

Financial Implications

N/a

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 made reasonable progress.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of background papers

Paper:

Date:

Contact:

Reason for inclusion in Part 2 if appropriate: N/A