

Status of Report: Public
Meeting: Combined Fire Authority
Date: 10 February 2021
Subject: Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and
Rescue Services Covid-19 Inspection Outcome
Report by: The Chief Fire and Rescue Officer
Author: Callum Faint – Chief Fire and Rescue Officer
For: Information

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Combined Fire Authority of the outcome from the recent Covid-19 related inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that the Combined Authority not the outcome letter of the Covid-19 specific inspection from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies, Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) which is appended to this report.

Executive Summary

3. The HMICFRS is an independent body set up to inspect Police and Fire and Rescue Services and report back its findings to central government based on evidential findings during their inspections.
4. In August 2020, HMICFRS were tasked by the Home Secretary to inspect how Fire and Rescue Services in England were responding to the Covid-19 pandemic. The inspection was to focus on the early stages of the pandemic from February through to June 2020.
5. The inspection was carried out virtually between 26 October and 6 November 2020. It involved a number of officers from the Service and the Chairman of the Combined Fire Authority, all supported by data and policies.
6. On 22 January 2021, HMICFRS published the outcome of the inspections for all the Services inspected including Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service.
7. The overarching theme of the outcome letter (appended to this report) is incredibly positive and recognises the immense effort and achievements of the Service in a very challenging time.

Background

8. The HMICFRS is an independent body set up to inspect Police and Fire and Rescue Services and report back its findings to central government based on evidential findings during their inspections.
9. In August 2020, HMICFRS were tasked by the Home Secretary to inspect how Fire and Rescue Services in England were responding to the Covid-19 pandemic. The inspection was to focus on the early stages of the pandemic from February through to June 2020.
10. In preparation for the inspection officers submitted relevant materials (policies, procedures, communications and risk assessments) to HMICFRS.
11. The Inspecting Officer reviewed this information and then, through virtual meetings, tested this and sought to triangulate the Service's response to the pandemic.
12. Officers were interviewed at a number of levels within the Service to ensure policy had been shared, communicated and implemented. It was also pleasing to see that, as well as managing the Service, officers were able to directly influence the national agreements in place (at the time) to allow more support to be offered.
13. The inspection covered the initial stages of the pandemic (February – June 2020) focusing on how the Service responded not only to its core statutory duties but how it further supported the community. These lines of questioning were consistent across all Fire and Rescue Services in England.
14. The outcome letter details HMICFRS's all the individual areas of activity and how the Service has responded.
15. The overarching theme of the outcome letter (appended to this report) is incredibly positive and recognises the immense effort and achievements of the Service in a very challenging time.

Report Implications/Impact

16. Legal (including crime and disorder)

The letter details how the Service met its statutory responsibilities throughout the pandemic.

17. Financial (including value for money, benefits and efficiencies)

The letter details how the Service met its financial responsibilities throughout the pandemic.

18. Risk (including corporate and operational, health and safety and any impact on the continuity of service delivery)

The letter details how the Service met the risks faced throughout the pandemic.

19. Staff, Service Users and Stakeholders (including the Equality Impact Assessment)

The letter details how the Service engaged with staff and stakeholders throughout the pandemic.

20. Environmental

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

21. Impact upon Our Plan Objectives

The pandemic has impacted upon the Service in many ways. In all areas where possible and reasonable the Service continued to operate and contribute towards “Our Plan”.

Background Papers

Report to Combined Fire Authority 16 December 2020 – “Covid-19 and Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service”

<https://leics-fire.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/10-covid-pandemic-update-final.pdf>

and Appendix

<https://leics-fire.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/10-appendix-covid-19-our-response.pdf>

Appendix

Covid-19 Inspection: Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service

Officers to Contact

Callum Faint

Chief Fire and Rescue Officer

Callum.faint@leics-fire.gov.uk

07800 709922