

Status of Report:

Public

Agenda Item:

10

Meeting: Corporate Governance Committee

Date: 24th January 2018

Subject: Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS)

Report by: Rick Taylor (Chief Fire and Rescue Officer)

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For: Information Only

1. Purpose

To inform the Corporate Governance Committee (CGC) of the newly established Inspectorate for the Fire & Rescue Service; the depth and breadth of the inspection process and potential outcomes arising from the auditing process.

2. Recommendations

CGC is asked to:

- a) Note the contents of the report which outlines the inspection process and any potential outcomes.
- b) Inform the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) of the content of this report.

3. Executive Summary

Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Constabulary (HMIC) was asked to broaden their auditing profile to encompass the fire and rescue service sector. This work is being coordinated through the Justice and Fire Minister who reports directly to the Home Secretary. The auditing process will start in the second quarter of the 2018 calendar year.

4. Report Detail

- 4.1. The inspections will be coordinated by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) Zoe Billingham (Eastern Region) and discharged through an appointed Service Liaison Lead. There are 4 other HMICFRS regions within England (Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are excluded from this process). The HMICFRS appointed Liaison Leads will be a constant presence within Services.
- 4.2. The inspection process will initially be focussed in 6 monthly intervals although these timeframes are subject to changes depending on the outcomes of the

audits and any added thematic reviews requested by the Home Office. Any outcomes identified are for the Combined Fire Authority to address.

- 4.3. The inspection process will look at the efficiency, effectiveness and leadership of each fire and rescue service and those findings will be publicly available on the HMICFRS website (<https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmicfrs/>)
- 4.4. The outcomes of the audits will be rated as: Outstanding; Good; Requires Improvement; or Inadequate. Each strand of the inspection will be given an individual assessment, with the Service being given an overall average rating as a whole. All reports are made available to the Service 14 days prior to publication on the HMICFRS website.
- 4.5. The current inspection framework identifies LFRS for inspection in tranche 2, this suggests our first inspection will be autumn/winter 2018.

5. Report Implications / Impact

5.1. *Legal (including crime and disorder)*

HMI have powers of inspection given to them by the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 , as amended by the Police and Crime Act 2017.

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

There are additional post holders required to facilitate the audits. The costs associated with these will come from existing budgets.

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

The outcomes of the audit process will be transparent and widely available. The performance of the Service in comparison to others may present risks and opportunities.

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

Part of the audit will focus on leadership, our staff, and the equalities agenda.

5.5. *Environmental*

None.

5.6. *Impact upon Our Plan Objectives*

The remodelling of the organisational structure has considered the additional work associated with the HMRCFRS inspection process and our objectives will be changed in order to meet the demands expected.

6. Background Papers

None.

7. Appendices

None.