

News Release

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Chief Fire and Rescue Officer Announces Departure from Service

Rick Taylor, Chief Fire and Rescue Officer at Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service, is stepping down from his role after almost 35 years in the fire and rescue service.

Rick became Chief Fire and Rescue Officer of Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service in January 2018, and has led the Service through some huge events, such as the devastating Hinckley Road explosion in February 2018 and the shocking Leicester City Football Club helicopter tragedy in October 2018. He was also at the helm whilst the Service prepared for its first inspection from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) in over a decade.

His fire and rescue service career began in Cambridgeshire in 1986, and during his time there he served in a variety of roles, from firefighter at Cambridge, Station Commander at Wisbech and Cambridge, to Divisional Commander of Peterborough district. He transferred to Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service in February 2008.

Chief Fire and Rescue Officer, Rick Taylor, said: "It has been a real privilege leading Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service over the past few years. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here, as the leader of such a hardworking, tremendous organisation.

"It has been fantastic to work alongside so many inspirational and committed people, who really have the best interests of the communities of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland at the centre of everything they do.

"However, I feel it's the right time to move on to pastures new. I will miss my valued colleagues and the partner agencies across the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

"I am confident that the Service will continue to adapt, improve and will excel in their 2021 HMICFRS inspection. We are there for everyone and anyone in their time of need."

Nick Rushton, Chair of the Combined Fire Authority, said: "Rick took over as Chief Officer at a difficult time for the Service. He had to stabilise it and make some necessary changes. I am grateful to him for all that he has done for the Service, not just as Chief Officer, and wish him all the best for the future."

Rick's last day in the Service will be on Friday 4 September 2020.

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Notes to Editors:

Interviews can be arranged through prior arrangement with Corporate Communications on the details below.

About the Service

Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service provides emergency response, prevention and protection services from 20 stations across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Its headquarters is based in Birstall, Leicester.

During 2018/19, the Service attended 762 road traffic collisions, of which 125 were extrications from vehicles, in addition to 2,569 fires. We carried out 6,746 home safety checks and fitted 4,790 smoke alarms. 279 schools were visited as part of the Service's schools programme, delivering fire and road safety education to pupils. Staff organised or took part in 1,068 community safety events, promoting fire and road safety and arson prevention, and 134 Virtual Fatal Four (VF4) events as part of the Service's young drivers' road safety project.

The Service's prevention, education, enforcement and inspection programmes have resulted in significant reductions in the number of incidents. In the last ten years, fire-related incidents have reduced by over 30 percent.

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