

Status of Report: Public

Meeting: Combined Fire Authority

Date: 16 December 2020

Subject: Covid-19 and Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service

Report by: The Chief Fire and Rescue Officer

Author: Steve Kisby, Station Manager, Service Assurance

For: Information Only

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Combined Fire Authority with a full update on actions taken by the Service in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that the Combined Fire Authority note the report and the Appendix detailing the high level of work undertaken in the pandemic above and beyond the normal requirements of a Fire and Rescue Service.

Executive Summary

3. The Appendix details the full range of activities, additional duties and staff effort that has been undertaken to support the community and partners over the pandemic from 31 January 2020 to 1 September 2020. Activities have continued past this where required and new activities continue to be undertaken where appropriate.
4. It is difficult to succinctly capture the levels of activity and work that have been undertaken. It is also difficult to identify any one area or activity that stands out, as all of them have and continue to greatly help the community during this time. The Senior Management Team is proud to showcase and recognise the extreme effort and ethos that has been displayed by all of the Service during the pandemic.

Background

5. The Appendix was created to assist in the information sharing with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) regarding the Covid inspection.
6. Given the positive impact of the work, officers felt it was important for the Combined Fire Authority to be updated on the significant contribution Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service has made during the pandemic.

7. The Appendix will be published on the Service's website in the near future to show the public the great work of the Service.
8. Covid-19 has placed a significant challenge on the Service which worked hard to understand the impact on the Service while continuing to deliver an effective fire and rescue service to communities, keep staff safe and meet the extra challenges that were presented by Covid-19. The Appendix sets out the Service's response to the challenges and difficulties faced during the first wave and subsequent challenges presented by the lock lockdown and moving into the second wave of the pandemic. It shows the remarkable spirit and positivity of staff to continue to deliver a first-class service to communities, despite having to work differently and more innovatively than ever before. It also lays out the extra work completed and looks at the lessons learnt in preparation for a second wave of the virus.

Report Implications/Impact

9. Legal (including crime and disorder)

There are no legal implications identified with this report.

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

There are no financial implications identified with this report. Any Covid-related expenditure has been funded through a grant provided by central Government.

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

The work identified in the Appendix has been undertaken in addition to all the statutory and legislative requirements placed upon the fire service.

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

Staff consideration has been paramount in our approach. Each activity has been risk assessed in conjunction with the representative bodies and remains in compliance with relevant guidance at the time of activities.

13. Environmental

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

14. Impact upon "Our Plan" Objectives

Response – Respond effectively to incidents

People – An engaged and productive workforce.

Appendix

Appendix - Covid-19 How we responded.

Officers to Contact

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