



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority

INSPECTION OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES IN ENGLAND

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Date: 28 September 2018

Purpose of Report:

This report updates Members on Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspection activity and preparations.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Members will be aware from previous reports that the new inspection regime for fire and rescue service's (FRSs) arose from the Fire Reform Programme, initiated by Theresa May as the then Home Secretary. The Fire Reform Programme is predicated on three pillars of reform, namely:
- Efficiency and collaboration;
 - Accountability and transparency (including a commitment to a 'rigorous and independent' inspection regime);
 - Workforce reform.
- 1.2 The inspections will not include an assessment of corporate governance or the accountability structures provided by the fire and rescue authority. The inspection will focus upon the Service, although it is possible that Members may be involved during the inspection process.
- 1.3 The inspection is centred around three key questions:
- How efficient is the FRS at keeping people safe and secure from fire and other risks?
 - How effective is the FRS at keeping people safe and secure from fire and other risks?
 - How well does the FRS look after its people?
- 1.4 Assessments will include graded judgments of performance, designed to enable the public to see how each fire and rescue service's performance changes over time and in relation to the performance of other Services. The categories of graded judgment are:
- Outstanding;
 - Good;
 - Requires improvement; and
 - Inadequate.
- 1.5 Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) will be inspected by HMICFRS in tranche two, and this will take place over four visits scheduled for January and February 2019.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 Since the last update to Members, the Chair of the Fire Authority and the Chief Fire Officer have attended an event hosted by HMICFRS. The event included feedback from the three pilot FRSs, as well as an explanation from Zoe Billingham on lessons learned from the pilots and subsequent changes to the inspection process. At the end of August, HMICFRS completed inspections of the 15 FRSs in tranche one.
- 2.2 Since the last report, the Service Liaison Lead (SLL) from HMICFRS allocated to NFRS to assist in preparation for inspection has returned to their Service. An interim SLL has been appointed by HMICFRS to assist the Service with their upcoming inspection, Davinder Johal from Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- 2.3 Preparations are underway as it known that the inspection process will involve the following:
- A self-assessment based on a series of diagnostic and sub diagnostics;
 - Provision of data to HMICFRS;
 - A field visit undertaken by inspectors. This is will be an intense process where a number of inspectors spend a week in each Service testing it against the diagnostics;
 - An initial feedback session to senior managers;
 - Provision of a draft report allowing confirmation or challenge of facts.
 - Provision of a final report which will be published in the public domain.
- 2.4 Officers have visited other FRSs who were part of the pilot and those who have been inspected in tranche one as well as Police colleagues to better assess the resource implications on delivering on the HMICFRS expectations.
- 2.5 To date NFRS has submitted two data requests in April and July, provided over 50 documents to HMICFRS for inspection, and submitted the Service's self-assessment. Preparations for the next data request in October are underway and include working towards more automation of ICT systems to report on the metrics requested by HMICFRS. This will alleviate the pressure on resources within departments who are currently compiling data manually.
- 2.6 Following the inspection and the final outcome being published by HMICFRS, Members of the Authority will be provided with the report, to enable the development of any response and potential action plan.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

An earmarked reserve of £50k has been established for 2018/19 in anticipation that additional resources may be required in terms of data system and/or people. As more information and experience is gained, formal proposals for resources will be developed and progressed through the normal governance arrangements where appropriate.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

The preparatory work is being co-ordinated by Corporate Support, but requires substantial resources from within other departments of the organisation. It is highly likely that resources will need to be redirected into this priority area and details of these will be reported to the Authority in a future report.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

There are no equalities implications arising from this report as it only serves to provide Members with an update on 'Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services'.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Police and Crime Act (2017) Chapter 4 Section 11 outlines that the English inspectors must inspect, and report on the efficiency and effectiveness of fire and rescue authorities in England.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Any fire and rescue service that HMICFRS deems to be failing under the new inspection regime, may be subject to intervention. Furthermore, if NFRS was to receive an unfavourable inspection report there is a risk of reputational damage to the Service.

9. COLLABORATION IMPLICATIONS

NFRS has been working with Nottinghamshire Police and other FRSs to gain knowledge and experience of preparation for these inspections. This area is currently one of the workstreams within the Authority agreed collaboration strategy

with Nottinghamshire Police and progress will be reported through the established governance framework now in place.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members note the contents of the report and agree to accept future reports once the initial inspection has been completed.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)

None.

John Buckley
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER