



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**  
**Fire & Rescue Service**  
*Creating Safer Communities*

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham  
Fire and Rescue Authority  
Community Safety Committee

# AN UPDATE ON THE 'AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT' FROM THE 2019 HMICFRS INSPECTION

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

**Date:** 19 March 2021

## **Purpose of Report:**

To present Members with an update on the Service's response to the 2019 inspection of Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

## **Recommendations:**

It is recommended that Members:

- Note the progress made against the 'Areas for Improvement'
- Agree the extension of 'Area for Improvement 4'

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## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Fire Authority in July 2019, Members were presented the report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) following the recent inspection of Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS).
- 1.2 In September 2019, Members were presented with an action plan detailing the 25 'Areas for Improvement' (AFIs) that had been highlighted by HMICFRS and capturing the actions to address these areas.
- 1.3 It was agreed that scrutiny and monitoring of progress of these actions would be facilitated through the Fire Authority Committee structure, with regular progress reports being presented to Members.
- 1.4 Of the 25 AFIs, 12 were aligned to the Community Safety Committee for scrutiny.

## 2. REPORT

- 2.1 Each of the 25 areas for improvement were allocated to a lead officer with clear milestones and expected outcomes. Within the Service, progress against these timelines was monitored and reported through the monthly Performance and Programme Board, chaired by the Chief Fire Officer.
- 2.2 Over the past 18 months, work has been undertaken to develop the Service in the areas highlighted by HMICFRS. Much of the work that was developed had already been started by the Service or was planned as part of the 2019/20 Business Plans. The Service has continued to focus resources and support to ensure continual improvement of these areas as part of the Service's wider Strategic Plan.
- 2.3 Ten AFIs have previously been presented to Members and 'closed'.
- 2.4 The final areas for improvement under Community Safety Committee governance are AFI 9 – *“to ensure that mobile data terminals (MDTs) are reliable to allow staff to access risk information”* and AFI 4 – *“Ensuring that prevention work is targeted at people most at risk”*.
- 2.5 AFI 4 was due to be completed by the 31 January 2021, however this was delayed due to the impacts of supporting the Covid-19 vaccination programme and community response. The Safe and Well Review report is now planned to be presented to the Service's Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) on the 23 March 2021 and this action will then be deemed complete.
- 2.6 An interim evaluation report from Nottingham Trent University was received in December and forms part of the Safe and Well Review report making recommendations around a 'person centred' approach for SWVs.

- 2.7 The evaluation work will inform the revised 'Safer Communities Strategy' as the Service works towards its next Strategic Plan through 2021.
- 2.8 Members are requested to support the extension of AFI 4 to the 31 March 2021 and to note the delay on completion for this action.
- 2.9 AFI 9 is progressing against the target date of the 31 March 2021, in line with the forecasted timescale. This action is awaiting an upgrade to the Mobile Data Terminal software that will improve functionality and reliability.
- 2.8 Progress for AFI 9 and AFI 4, and any closure proposals, will be presented to Members at the Community Safety Committee in June 2021.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### **4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no human resources or learning and development implications arising from this report.

### **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken because the information contained in this report does not relate to a change in policy or procedure.

### **6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

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

### **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 places a duty on NFRS in respect of the delivery of its services to communities.
- 7.2 The Local Government Act 1999 places a statutory duty on NFRS to '*secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised*'. The reporting of Service Delivery's performance ensures that the Service is focusing on key objectives as set by the Fire Authority and continuous improvement. This ensures that Members can apply effective scrutiny to be satisfied that statutory obligations are being met.

- 7.3 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**

There are no risk management implications arising from this report.

## **9. COLLABORATION IMPLICATIONS**

There are no collaboration implications arising from this report.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

- 10.1 Note the progress made against the 'Areas for Improvement'.
- 10.2 Agree the extension of 'Area for Improvement 4'.

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

None.

John Buckley  
**CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**