



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority

CLOSURE OF THE ‘AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT’ FROM THE 2019 HMICFRS INSPECTION

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Date: 22 July 2022

Purpose of Report:

To present Members with an update on the Service’s response to the outcomes regarding the 2019 inspection of Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services and present closure of the associated ‘Areas for Improvement’ that were identified.

Recommendations:

That Members approve the closure of the Areas for Improvement from the 2019 inspection.

CONTACT OFFICER

Name:	Craig Parkin Chief Fire Officer
Tel:	0115 967 0880
Email:	craig.parkin@notts-fire.gov.uk
Media Enquiries Contact:	Corporate Communications corporatecomms@notts-fire.gov.uk

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 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.

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 Work has been undertaken to develop the Service in the areas highlighted by HMICFRS as part of the Service's wider continuous improvement under the previous Strategic Plan. Much of the work that was developed from the AFIs had already been started by the Service or was planned as part of the Service business planning.
- 2.3 Scrutiny was applied through the delegated responsibilities of the Fire Authority Committee structures, aligning the areas for improvement to the appropriate scrutiny committee subject to their position within the Service.
- 2.4 The Committees received quarterly updates for all AFIs and closure reports for each individual area for improvement. Closure reports presented Committees with a precis of actions undertaken, how the area for improvement had been addressed, and assurance that the areas of improvement were now embedded within the Service.
- 2.5 Some actions against the AFIs required extensions to the original deadlines in order to ensure appropriate completion and balancing of resources. These proposals were presented to, scrutinised, and approved by the Committees.
- 2.6 All 25 AFIs have now been presented, and accepted, as closed. All Committees have approved recommendations to close the discharged actions and report back to the Fire Authority that the Areas for Improvement have been met.

- 2.7 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services inspected the Areas for Improvement from the 2019 inspection in their Round Two inspection in September 2021. The outcomes of this inspection are due to be published in Summer 2022.

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

That Members approve the closure of the Areas for Improvement from the 2019 inspection.

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

None.

Craig Parkin
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER