



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

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

HIS MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY AND FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES, AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Date: 09 June 2023

Purpose of Report:

To present Members with an update on the Service's response to the 2021 inspection of Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Members:

- Note the progress with addressing the areas for improvement assigned to the Community Safety Committee;
- Agree to receive future updates on progress.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Fire Authority in September 2022, 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 Accompanying the report, Members were presented with a paper detailing the four 'Areas for Improvement' (AFIs) that had been highlighted by HMICFRS.
- 1.3 It was agreed that scrutiny and monitoring of progress of these actions would be facilitated through the Fire Authority committee structure, with progress reports being presented to Members.
- 1.4 Of the four AFIs, two were aligned to the Community Safety Committee for scrutiny.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 Each of the AFIs have been allocated to a lead officer with clear milestones and expected outcomes. Within the Service, progress against these timelines is monitored and reported through the monthly Community Risk Management Plan Assurance Board (CRMPAB), chaired by the Chief Fire Officer.
- 2.2 Since the HMICFRS report was published in July 2022, the Service has undertaken a gap analysis against areas of work that were already being progressed under the current Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP). This has assured that work to address the AFIs was either already planned or has now been included in the Service's annual delivery planning.
- 2.3 The two AFIs identified delegated to this Committee are:
 - AFI 2 – the Service should assure itself that its risk-based inspection programme prioritises the highest risks and includes proportionate activity to reduce risk;
 - AFI 4 – the Service should ensure that, when responding to a 999 call, mobile data terminals (MDTs) are reliable to allow staff to access risk information

AREA FOR IMPROVEMENT 2

- 2.4 The Risk Based Inspection Programme (RBIP) is the method by which the Service ensures that its fire protection activities are targeted at the highest risk premises.
- 2.5 A previous Community Safety Committee update in January 2023 outlined that a PhD student from Nottingham Trent University has been engaged to

undertake an external evaluation of the RBIP and that this work is due to report at the end of May.

- 2.6 The reporting timetable for this action is still on track and a further update will be brought to the meeting of this Committee in October to provide an update on the outcomes of the evaluation.

AREA FOR IMPROVEMENT 4

- 2.7 The provision of accurate risk information and reliability of MDTs was an AFI highlighted by HMICFRS in the 2019 inspection.
- 2.8 This AFI was closed in June 2022 following work undertaken by the Service, and overseen by the Assistant Chief Fire Officer, to ensure that risk information was available for operational crews at incidents.
- 2.9 This new AFI seeks to ensure that the work undertaken to date continues to be assured and further improvements made to the reliability of access to risk information.
- 2.10 It was previously reported that the Service was seeking to replace the current MDTs in the financial year 2023/24 and to enhance the resilience and availability of risk information for crews through the provision of a secondary device.
- 2.11 The Service is currently in the process of rolling out new MDTs to fire appliances. The MDT replacement programme is being carried out in conjunction with Leicestershire and Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Services as part of the tri-service collaboration.
- 2.12 Trial devices are currently installed at two stations in Nottinghamshire with roll out to the full fleet expected by the end of June 2023. It is anticipated that the new devices will offer greater resilience, functionality and useability for crews as well as improving the reliability issues experienced with the old technology.
- 2.13 Once the new MDTs are rolled out to all stations, the Service's ICT team will commence user engagement as part of the scoping and procurement of a secondary mobile device which will be rolled out later in the year.
- 2.14 Future updates will continue to be provided on this workstream.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of the MDT replacement is funded from a £100k capital project.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

Training requirements for the users of the new MDTs are being addressed as part of the project group. The Service is making use of hybrid learning which includes both face to face, digital learning, and user guides to support implementation of the new technology.

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

- 8.1 It is incumbent on the Service to demonstrate continuous improvement and learning as a result of the outcome of HMICFRS inspections.
- 8.2 The MDT replacement programme will help to mitigate the risks associated with health safety and welfare by ensuring operational risk information is available to crews at incidents.

9. COLLABORATION IMPLICATIONS

MDT replacement is being delivered in conjunction with Leicestershire and Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Services as part of tri-service collaboration arrangements.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 10.1 Note the progress with addressing the AFIs assigned to the Community Safety Committee.
- 10.2 Agree to receive future updates on progress.

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

None.

Craig Parkin
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER