

REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY (CFA) 17 SEPTEMBER 2018

1. HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY, FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES (HMICFRS) PROGRESS TOWARDS INSPECTION - UPDATE BRIEFING 3

Members received an update following the recent inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS). The inspection took place during the week 9th – 13th July 2018 with the HMICFRS team speaking to staff, selected partner agencies, representative bodies, the Executive Board and the Chairman. This was facilitated during the Winter Hill deployment and was managed through staff flexibility. A strategic brief took place at the end of the inspection week and feedback was received on the very positive culture that was found within Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS), the 'can do attitude' of staff and that the Service's values were committed to 'making Lancashire safer'. A second data request was received and returned to HMICFRS on 14 July 2018. A HMICFRS staff survey had been received which asked staff their opinion on working for LFRS. This had been circulated for staff for completion by 30 September 2018.

Information had recently been received from HMICFRS advising that fieldwork for services in tranche one had now been completed and HMICFRS was currently analysing the evidence and drafting service reports. These would be shared on a confidential basis with each Service in late October to check for factual accuracies before publication in early December. The findings of which would be discussed at the next Authority meeting.

2. COLLABORATION UPDATE

Members received a report which gave an overview of the collaboration since the last meeting in June 2018. Only one Fire Authority (Essex) had adopted a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) governance model but there had been a further 6 business cases going forward which were the subject of 3 Judicial Review applications. Hertfordshire had discontinued their change to a PCC governance model in favour of collaboration between the PCC and the Local Authority and potentially co-location of premises.

With regard to Lancashire, the sequence of events had been that on 25 July 2018 at Service Headquarters the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, the Leader of the Opposition and Clerk had met with the PCC and his consultant and had been well prepared to challenge the proposal. Shortly after commencing a presentation it became clear that the PCC no longer wanted to pursue taking over the Combined Fire Authority's governance responsibilities but hoped that closer collaboration could be used to achieve common goals for both services.

Having received a letter from the PCC dated 27 July there was growing concern that the proposal made was done so with more conditions than first apparent. The Authority responded on 30 July 2018 and subsequently to seek clarification on a) whether the Commissioner was withdrawing plans to continue with the Business Case; and b) what the new collaboration regime would look like. In one subsequent response the Commissioner stated that 'collaboration was not enough' which led to some further concern. The latest response was sent from the Authority on 30 August 2018 and a further response was awaited. Until a response was received LFRS would continue with its well established collaboration activities and would continue to look for further areas of development.

3. ANNUAL SERVICE REPORT

Members viewed the Annual Service Report which had been prepared as a video. Alongside the video was a supporting document which had also been produced and in order to encourage a wider audience and engagement this was accessible to all members of staff on the intranet and would be available to the public on the LFRS website. <https://www.lancsfirerescue.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Annual-Service-Report-2017-18.pdf>

4. COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY REPORTS

As part of the report members received a presentation by Assistant Chief Fire Officer, David Russel on the Service's response to Winter Hill.

Following the presentation Members asked that the Authority's thanks be passed onto all those involved during the Winter Hill major incident, including our partner agencies. The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that the Service had organised a Winter Hill 'Thank-You' event for all the partner agencies involved on 25 September 2018 to recognise their contribution and the assistance they provided during the incident. The Fire Minister and others from central government had also been complimentary about the level of hard work involved in the incident. Members expressed that they had been encouraged by the hard work and resilience of the Service and would welcome the opportunity for the video to be circulated to a wider audience which would include organisations and schools. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qUoDFo_puXE&feature=youtu.be

5. RE-APPOINTMENT OF CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY

The Authority approved the re-appointment of Mr Mark Nolan as Clerk and Monitoring Officer to the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority for a period of twelve months, to the September meeting of the Authority in 2019.

FRANK DE MOLFETTA
Chairman

LFRS
Fulwood