

SCRUTINY ADVISORY BOARD – COMMUNITIES AND PLACE

Meeting date: 12 March 2020

From: Deputy Chief Fire Officer John Beard

Fire and Rescue Service Inspection Outcome and Improvement Plan

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report and accompanying presentation provides an update to Scrutiny on the outcome of the Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspection of Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service in 2019 and the improvement work underway to address the areas highlighted by the inspectors.
- 1.2 The report also provides an update on the national context following the publication of the 'State of Fire and Rescue: The Annual Assessment of Fire and Rescue Services in England 2019' by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire & Rescue Services.

2.0 Issues for Scrutiny

- 2.1 Scrutiny Members are asked to consider the update, any issues raised and areas that Scrutiny may wish to review further ahead of the next inspection.

3.0 Background

HMICFRS Inspection

- 3.1 In 2018/19 HMICFRS completed their first full assessment of all 45 fire and rescue services for more than a decade. Cumbria was in the third tranche of the services and was inspected in June 2019.
- 3.2 The inspection framework looked at three areas:
- 3.3 **How effective is the fire and rescue service at keeping people safe and secure from fire and other risks?**
How well the fire and rescue service understands its current and future risks, works to prevent fires and other risks, protects the public through the regulation of fire safety, responds to fires and other emergencies, and responds to national risks.

3.4 **How efficient is the fire and rescue service at keeping people safe and secure from fire and other risks?**

How well the fire and rescue service uses its resources to manage risk, and secures an affordable way of providing its service, now and in the future.

3.5 **How well does the fire and rescue service look after its people?**

How well the fire and rescue service promotes its values and culture, trains its staff and ensures that they have the necessary skills, ensures fairness and diversity for its workforce, and develops leaders.

3.6 Cumbria's report was published on 19 December 2019 and the Service received the following gradings:

Effectiveness	Good
Efficiency	Good
People	Requires Improvement

3.7 HMICFRS also identified 13 'Areas for Improvement'. These are listed in full at Appendix A.

Improvement Activity

3.8 Following the initial feedback from HMICFRS immediately after the inspection the Service developed an improvement plan. The broad plan covered areas that both HMICFRS highlighted and areas the Service identified through the preparation for the inspection. This preparation was supported by the Scrutiny Task & Finish Group.

3.9 This was reviewed once the Service had sight of the draft report and again when the final report was published to ensure that all the areas for improvement identified were incorporated.

3.10 The Areas for Improvement are being monitored through the Service's Strategic Leadership Team and the broader activity through the Service's Programme Board. A focus of the next round of inspections will be on what services have done to address the areas for improvement and work is ongoing to ensure the Service can evidence that when the next inspection takes place in April 2020.

National Context

3.11 At the end of each set of 15 inspections, HMICFRS published a summary report of themes emerging from the inspections. At the end of all 45 inspections Sir Thomas P Winsor, by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire & Rescue Services published a report to the Secretary of State containing his assessment of the effectiveness and efficiency of services in England.

- 3.12 The report identifies a range of themes and makes four recommendations. These are covered in the presentation at Appendix B. There has been no announcements about the possible implementation of these recommendations.

Jo Richardson
Business Manager
2 March 2020

Please ensure that every part of this section where there is an asterisk is completed in accordance with the instructions before sending the report to Legal and Democratic Services, (please delete this sentence, prior to release).*

Appendices

Appendix A – Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service Areas for Improvement
Appendix B – Powerpoint presentation

Previous Relevant Council or Executive Decisions *[including Local Committees]*

No previous relevant decisions

Background Papers

SAB Communities and Place – Fire and Rescue Service Inspection Preparation
Scrutiny Working Group – 15 March 2019

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