

# Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority



<b>MEETING</b>	Overview and Audit Committee
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	14 November 2018
<b>OFFICER</b>	Julian Parsons, Head of Service Development
<b>LEAD MEMBER</b>	Councillor Roger Reed
<b>SUBJECT OF THE REPORT</b>	<b>Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services – Preparation Update</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<p>On 14 February 2018, Officers presented to the Fire Authority their preparation plans for the launch of the new Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspection process, alongside their response to the consultation relating to the inspection methodology. The purpose of this paper is to update the Committee on progress with the Service's preparations for, and engagement with, the inspection process.</p> <p>Tranche One inspections, comprising 14 FRS, are now complete with reports of their findings scheduled to be published by HMICFRS in early December 2018.</p> <p>The Tranche Two inspection process, comprising 16 FRS (including Oxfordshire and Royal Berkshire FRSs), is now well underway. The Tranche Two inspection timetable is shown at Appendix 1.</p> <p>Buckinghamshire FRS (BFRS) is to be inspected in Tranche Three. This is currently planned to commence in the Spring of 2019 though the precise timings of the individual FRS inspections are yet to be confirmed. However, BFRS has already engaged with the process via response to a number of performance information requests. To date these have been fulfilled on time and to the required specifications.</p> <p>Currently the Service's preparations are proceeding to plan. Overall progress with preparations at milestone level, together with key risks and associated mitigations, are shown in the project Highlight Report at Appendix 2</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	Noting.
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<p>It is recommended that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the content of the progress report be noted; and</li> <li>2. a copy of this report be submitted to the 12 December 2018 Fire Authority meeting for their information, updated to reflect the latest position at</li> </ol>

	<p>that time.</p> <p>The Authority be recommended to agree that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. the Overview and Audit Committee continue to receive progress reports on preparations for the HMICFRS inspection;</li> <li>4. a summary of the overall findings from each inspection tranche be received by the Authority when available;</li> <li>5. the HMICFRS' full inspection report relating to Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service be received by the Authority following publication; and</li> <li>6. following publication of the HMICFRS inspection report, the Overview and Audit Committee monitor progress with plans to address any recommendations made by HMICFRS.</li> </ol>
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>	<p>There are reputational corporate risks to the organisation should we be graded as inadequate. The Service has already taken steps to mitigate this through having extensive internal and external audits of a number of areas of the Service. Notably, our operations have been subject to external independent assurance. Our Health, Safety and Wellbeing function has been independently audited by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and received a Gold Award.</p>
<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	<p>FRS are not funded for burden and preparation resource implications of HMICFRS visit, nor is the Service charged. This round of inspections is funded by the Home Office. The Police are top sliced from their government grants to fund the HMICFRS inspections of constabulary. There has been no mention yet that this might be a future funding model for the inspection of FRS.</p>
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	<p>The powers of inspection of FRS are established by the Policing and Crime Act 2017. There is no contractual relationship between BFRS or HMICFRS. There are no specific legal functions or liabilities anticipated at this time.</p>
<b>CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DUTY TO COLLABORATE</b>	<p>Though this is something each Service has to plan and deliver individually, officers have been working on our approach in consultation with our Thames Valley FRS partners and 'peer' support from Thames Valley and Gloucestershire Police Forces.</p>
<b>HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>	<p>There are no Health, Safety or Wellbeing implications anticipated. This area is subject to inspectorate scrutiny.</p>
<b>EQUALITY AND</b>	<p>There are no Equality and Diversity implications expected as part of the preparation process. However,</p>

<b>DIVERSITY</b>	assessment of performance in this area is subject to inspectorate scrutiny.
<b>USE OF RESOURCES</b>	<p>A preparation plan was devised for the Service and presented to the Fire Authority on 14 February 2018. The preparations for HMICFRS is being led by the Head of Service Development.</p> <p><b>Communication with stakeholders;</b> A Stakeholder engagement exercise has been carried out and points of communication with Members and staff has been programmed into the preparation plan.</p> <p><b>The system of internal control;</b> Specific areas identified for service improvement have been identified through a number of workshops. These are being captured in relevant departmental plans and the Operational Assurance Plan. These will be reported on in the usual way and ultimately to the Executive Committee.</p> <p><b>The medium term financial strategy;</b> No implications for the strategy are identified at this time. There may be future implications depending on the long-term funding model for HMICFRS.</p> <p><b>The balance between spending and resources;</b> No new human resources have been identified as being required to prepare for inspection. The Corporate Planning Manager is overseeing preparation of evidence gathering with support from the Service's Business Continuity and Resilience Manager. The Viper system has been designed to capture evidence on an ongoing basis. This allows managers to provide evidence as part of their usual reporting process. Further scrutiny of the progress against the delivery of the corporate plan is provided by the Performance Management Board.</p> <p>The ethos of the Service will be to continue to deliver the Service's vision and strategic aims and gather the relevant evidence for the HMICFRS as business as usual rather than an extra burden.</p> <p>While we develop an understanding of the inspection process and monitor the experience and effect on other Services we will revisit the resourcing needs.</p> <p>We have identified that preparations for aspects of the new Public Safety Plan (PSP) due in 2020 need to be closely aligned with preparations for the HMICFRS. This is reflected in the plan.</p>
<b>PROVENANCE SECTION &amp; BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>Chapter four of the Policing and Crime Act 2017 established the legal framework for the inspection of English fire and rescue services. Wales and Scotland have their own mechanisms for assuring services. The Home Office subsequently awarded a contract to Her</p>

	<p>Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and consequently they changed their name to Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services.</p> <p>Our preparation plans together with our response to HMICFRS’ consultation on the inspection methodology was presented to, and considered at, the 14 February 2018 Fire Authority meeting (see pages 131 – 162):</p> <p><a href="https://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/9615/1782/8239/FIRE_AUTHORITY_AGENDA_AND_REPORTS_140218-min.pdf">https://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/9615/1782/8239/FIRE_AUTHORITY_AGENDA_AND_REPORTS_140218-min.pdf</a></p>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tranche Two inspection timetable</li> <li>2. HMICFRS Project Highlight Report</li> </ol>
<b>TIME REQUIRED</b>	15 Minutes
<b>REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT</b>	<p>Stuart Gowanlock – Corporate Planning Manager</p> <p><a href="mailto:sgowanlock@bucksfire.gov.uk">sgowanlock@bucksfire.gov.uk</a></p>