



# Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

<b>MEETING</b>	Extraordinary Fire Authority
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	23 January 2020
<b>OFFICER</b>	Dave Norris, Head of Service Delivery
<b>LEAD MEMBER</b>	Councillor Lesley Clark OBE
<b>SUBJECT OF THE REPORT</b>	<b>Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) – Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (BFRS) Inspection Findings Report</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<p>Following completion of the first inspection round of all 45 fire and rescue services, HMICFRS published the report into Buckinghamshire Fire &amp; Rescue Service on 17 December 2019, as part of the final tranche of reports.</p> <p>The inspection methodology covers three pillars (effectiveness, efficiency and people) against each of which a judgement is given; outstanding, good, requires improvement or inadequate. There is no overall judgement covering service performance.</p> <p>The Service was judged:</p> <p>Effectiveness – requires improvement</p> <p>Efficiency – requires improvement</p> <p>People – good</p> <p>Depending on the severity of matters found, HMICFRS may provide suggested areas for improvement, causes for concern and recommendations. A recommendation will always accompany a cause for concern.</p> <p>The report for this Service identifies 11 areas for improvement, one cause for concern accompanied by two recommendations.</p> <p>The Fire and Rescue Service National Framework document requires fire and rescue services to give due regard to HMICFRS reports and recommendations. Where recommendations are made, the receiving Service is required to prepare, update and regularly publish an action plan detailing how such recommendations are actioned (Fire and Rescue National Framework, section 7.5).</p> <p>This Service has built an effective relationship with HMICFRS, which it intends to maintain. Matters raised in the report will be addressed through internal governance structures and reported to Members</p>

	through the Overview and Audit Committee.
<b>ACTION</b>	Noting
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	That Members note the HMICFRS report and the Service’s approach to addressing the report findings.
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>	There were reputational corporate risks to the organisation should we have been graded as inadequate. The Service had 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.
<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	Fire and rescue services are not funded for the burden and preparation resource implications of HMICFRS visit, nor is the Service charged. This round of inspections was 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 fire and rescue services.
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	The powers of inspection for fire and rescue services are established by the Policing and Crime Act 2017.. There are no specific legal risks or liabilities anticipated at this time.
<b>CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DUTY TO COLLABORATE</b>	Officers have developed our approach to inspection with our Thames Valley Fire and Rescue Service partners, and with ‘peer’ support from Thames Valley and Gloucestershire Police Forces.
<b>HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>	There are no Health, Safety or Wellbeing implications from this report.
<b>EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY</b>	There are no Equality and Diversity implications as part of the report.
<b>USE OF RESOURCES</b>	<p>Prior to this Service’s inspection, a preparation plan was devised for the Service and presented to the Authority on 14 February 2018 with a number of updates prior to inspection.</p> <p>The preparations for the on-going relationship with HMICFRS and future HMICFRS inspections are now being led by the Head of Service Delivery, as the designated Service Liaison Officer.</p> <p><b>Communication with stakeholders;</b></p> <p>Engagement and briefings have regularly been carried</p>

	<p>out and points of communication with Members and staff have been programmed.</p> <p><b>The system of internal control;</b></p> <p>Specific areas identified for service improvement have been identified through a number of workshops. These are being captured in relevant departmental plans and in the Operational Assurance Plan. These will be reported on in the usual way and ultimately to the Overview and Audit Committee.</p> <p><b>The medium-term financial strategy;</b></p> <p>No direct 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></p> <p>No new capability requirements have been identified as being required to prepare for, and support an inspection. The Corporate Planning Manager oversees preparation of evidence gathering with support from the Service’s Resilience and Business Continuity 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. Performance Management Board provides further scrutiny of progress towards the delivery of the corporate plan.</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 on a business as usual basis, rather than as an extra burden. While we develop an understanding of the inspection process and monitor the experience and effect on other Services we will revisit the resourcing needs. 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 PSP.</p>
<p><b>PROVENANCE SECTION &amp; BACKGROUND PAPERS</b></p>	<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 Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and consequently they changed their name to Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services. 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</p>

	<p>meeting (see pages 131 – 162):  <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> <p>14 February 2018 – Fire Authority Paper:  <a href="https://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/5315/1782/9364/ITEM_10_HMICFRS_Report_and_Appendices-min.pdf">https://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/5315/1782/9364/ITEM 10 HMICFRS Report and Appendices-min.pdf</a></p> <p>14 November 2018 O &amp; A preparation update:  <a href="https://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/3515/4108/8758/ITEM_15_HMICFRS_Update_Appendices.pdf">https://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/3515/4108/8758/ITEM 15 HMICFRS Update Appendices.pdf</a></p> <p>13 February 2019 – Fire Authority preparation update:  <a href="https://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/4315/4894/2713/ITEM_13_HMICFRS_Update_FA_12_2_2019_Appendix-min.pdf">https://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/4315/4894/2713/ITEM 13 HMICFRS Update FA 12 2 2019 Appendix-min.pdf</a></p>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	HMICFRS report into Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service
<b>TIME REQUIRED</b>	1 hour
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