

12 October 2018

Fire Commission Update paper

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

The report outlines issues of interest to the Fire Commission not covered under other items on the agenda.

Recommendation

That members of the Committee note the report.

Action

Officers to continue to provide updates to members.

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Fire Commission Update paper

Fire Reform agenda

Police and Crime Commissioners and fire governance

1. The Statutory Instrument to change the governance of Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service came into force on 1 August. Matthew Ellis is the new Staffordshire Commissioner for Police, Fire and Rescue and Crime.
2. The [Statutory Instrument](#) to change the governance of North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority was laid before Parliament on the 6 September and will come into force on the 15 November.
3. There have been no Statutory Instruments made for the change of governance for West Mercia (Hereford & Worcester and Shropshire Fire and Rescue Services) or Cambridgeshire following the Home Office confirmation of the changes in March 2018. We understand the judicial reviews of the Home Office's decisions are continuing.
4. No Statutory Instruments have been made for Northamptonshire which was similarly announced in April 2018. Dates for transfer of governance in these three services therefore remains unconfirmed.
5. Hertfordshire FRA have issued a joint press release with Hertfordshire PCC, David Lloyd, announcing that they have agreed to maintain the current governance arrangements, whilst working to strengthening collaboration across blue light services through a formal Hertfordshire Emergency Services Collaboration Board.

Enabling PCCs to sit and vote on Combined Fire and Rescue Authorities

6. The Government announced in mid-June that they will be bringing forward legislation to enable PCCs to be represented on their local FRAs subject to the consent of the FRA, voting rights provisions were already in place for Mets and counties so the purpose of this legislation is to bring combined FRAs into the same place. This was in response to a consultation that the Government had carried out on their proposal to vary the combination schemes of Combined FRAs.
7. 91 per cent of affected Combined FRAs agreed to the proposed amendments, with two FRAs objecting to the proposed amendments. The Government said it would hold an inquiry to better understand their concerns.
8. The consultation response outlined a number of themes where FRAs had either actively objected or sought further information. There were some concerns around membership allowances for PCCs, membership numbers and the impact on political balance. There were also some issues around the right of a PCC to appoint a deputy to attend FRA meetings on their behalf. There were some concerns about what this would mean in

12 October 2018

practice, would the Deputy PCC have voting rights? Should they be able to speak and influence decisions etc?

9. The Government's response to the consultation can be found [here](#) on the Government's website.

Fire Standards Board

10. Earlier in the year the Fire Minister has announced a new Fire Standards Board. The aim of the Board will be to ensure standards are nationally coordinated to a high level across the sector. It will be for the board to determine its work plan but initial issues the Board could consider include:

10.1. workforce issues like leadership and development

10.2. the identification and mitigation of risks

10.3. fire prevention and the approach to protecting the public from other emergencies.

11. The Fire Standards Board will have membership from the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC), the LGA, the College of Policing and the Home Office. The revised [National Fire Framework](#) requires all FRAs to implement the standards approved through this work and the inspectorate will have regard to these standards as part of their inspections.
12. The first meeting of the Fire Standards Board will be on Monday 26 November 2018. At the first FSMC meeting of 2018/19 on 20 September Cllr Nick Chard (Cons) was appointed to represent the LGA at the Board.

HMICFRS consultation and first tranche inspections

13. Earlier in the year officers attended the HMICFRS Chairs and Chiefs Engagement day to hear from the pilot inspection authorities. The pilots identified a number of learning points including:

13.1. Governance differences and the impact that this had on how the inspection was carried out. This was particularly true in the case of county authorities where there were different structures and different policies in place as the fire service was a part of a wider organisation. It was felt that the inspectorate had taken these issues on board but there was still further learning needed.

13.2. There had been a very big focus from the inspectorate on the IRMP and how this should be understood across the organisation. The pilots felt that it would be a key consideration for FRAs in the future to think how the IRMP is seen and understood within their FRA

13.3. Focus on benchmarking: the pilots noted that it was important that like was compared with like. There were very different ways across the pilots of benchmarking their work which would have an impact on how this activity was seen

12 October 2018

by the inspectorate. They had emphasised that all FRAs will be different because of communities different needs

- 13.4. Differing pilot experiences. There was an evolution across the pilot inspection process of the HMICFRS approach.
 - 13.5. Impact on the service: Each of the services had seen an impact on the work of the service to prepare for and facilitate inspection.
 - 13.6. Managing expectations: the reports from the inspection would take a number of months to be published, for example those in tranche one would not receive their reports until November 2018, when the inspections would be starting in July 2018.
 - 13.7. Relationship with service liaison leads: This was the key relationship for each FRA going forward and would be the first point of contact for FRSs before the inspection started
 - 13.8. The inspectorate said it was willing to adapt and learn as the pilots progressed.
14. The first tranche of inspections have now been completed with 14 services having been inspected with Kent FRA being shifted to the second tranche of inspections. 14 individual reports and a national report are expected to be published in early December. Dates for the second tranche of inspections were expected to have been sent to relevant authorities by mid-September.

Corporate governance inspection and the Inspection External Reference Group

15. HMICFRS is in the process of developing the corporate inspection criteria and will be consulting across the sector on various elements of the inspection process and triggers. The expectation is that corporate inspections will be by exception and that in general inspections will not be required. The Fire Commission will be receiving a presentations on this.
16. The Inspection External Reference Group continues to meet regularly with representatives from HMICFRS, FSMC, NFCC and the Home Office.

JESIP Interoperability Board

17. The latest JESIP Interoperability Board meeting took place on the 3 September. Members of the group discussed key issues around the continued use of the Joint Organisational Learning (JOL) to share good practice and development of a multi-agency self-assurance or peer review process.

Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP)

18. The NFCC briefed the FSMC meeting in June around the extension to timelines of the ESMCP project beyond the life-expectancy of the current FireLink (Airwave) communications system. Since then the NFCC, in partnership with FSMC, have written to Sir Philip Rutnam, Permanent Secretary at the Home Office, to voice concerns around

12 October 2018

the extended timeline for introduction and the continuation of the Section 31 Airwave grant beyond the current end date of Dec 2019.

Local Government Association

19. **LGA Leadership Essentials Fire and Rescue:** The LGA will be holding two fire leadership essentials courses in 2018/19 on 28-29 November 2018 and 26-27 February 2019, both events will be held at Warwick Conference Centre.
20. **Culture, Diversity and Inclusion Masterclasses:** The current plan is to hold five regional Culture, Diversity and Inclusion Masterclasses from December 2018 to March 2019 following the publishing of the first tranche of HMCIFRS inspections in November. Dates are provisionally set for a London event on 9 January 2019 and a West Yorkshire event on 18 January 2019. Three further events are planned for the South West, West Midlands and the North West.
21. **Fire Conference:** The report from the 2018 Fire Conference can be viewed [here](#) on the LGA website. The 2019 conference will be held on the 12-13 March at the Hilton Metropole in Brighton. The venue was available on Member's preferred dates and has got a sprinkler system. The bidding for workshop session opened over the summer and was due to close on the 10 October depending on the level of applications, FSMC lead members will consider the bids in the next Lead Members meeting.

Outside bodies

22. At the first FSMC of the year the Board nominated members to attend various outside bodies as detailed in **Appendix A**.
23. FSMC also nominated members of the board to take on the roles of Diversity Champion and Finance Lead as detailed below:
 - 23.1. Diversity Champion: Fiona Twycross
 - 23.2. Finance Lead: Nick Chard

Appendix A

Outside Body	Group nominations in 2018/19
Arson Prevention Forum	- 1 place - Cllr Kevin Dodds (Lab)
Central Programme Office Engagement Forum	- 1 place - Cllr Ian Stephens (Ind)
Central Programme Office Engagement Forum: Community Risk Sub-forum	- 1 place - Cllr Nikki Hennessy (Lab)
Central Programme Office Engagement Forum: Digital	- 1 place - Jason Ablewhite (Con)
Central Programme Office Engagement Forum: People	- 1 place - Cllr Roger Price (LD)
On-call Steering Group (formerly CFOA, RDS & operational training working group)	- 1 place TBC (con) - Cllr Judith Hughes (Lab)
Emergency Service Collaboration Working Group	- 2 places - Cllr Eric Carter (Con) - Cllr John Robinson (Lab)
Fire Service College Engagement Forum	- FSMC would like two places in 2018/19; - Roger Hirst (Con) - Cllr John Edwards (Lab)
HMICFRS FRS Inspections - External Reference Group	- 3 places - Cllr Rebecca Knox (Con) - Fiona Twycross (Lab) - Cllr Keith Aspden (LD)
Interoperability Board (JESIP)	- 1 place - Roger Hirst/Cllr Nick Chard (Con)
National Occupational Committee	- 1 place - Cllr John Robinson (Lab)
Fire Standards Board	- 1 place - Cllr Nick Chard (Con)
Strategic Resilience Board	- 2 places - Cllr Les Byrom CBE (Lab) - Cllr Ian Stephens (Ind)