

Title of Paper	Fire Standards Progress Report
Decision or Information	For information
Title and Date of Meeting	LGA Fire Services Management Committee 19 th May 2023
Attachments	None

Summary

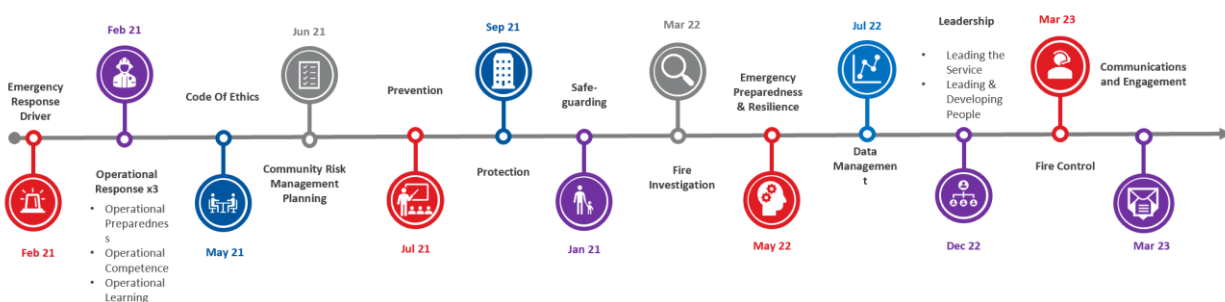
This paper provides members of the LGA Fire Services Management Committee (FSMC) with a summary of the progress on the Fire Standards. The Fire Standards Board (FSB) last met formally on 30th March 2023 and they next meet on 31st July 2023.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

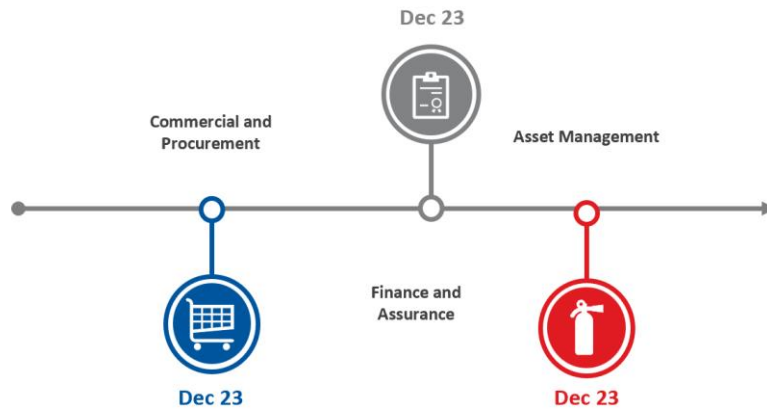
- note the contents of this report for information;
- provide ongoing support to officers in enabling and empowering them to engage in the development and implementation of the Fire Standards both in production and when published; and
- encourage the monitoring of the benefits of the Fire Standards in their services.

Current Status



There are now sixteen approved and published Fire Standards which are available on the [Fire Standards Board](#) website and shown in the timeline figure below.

The second and third phases of Fire Standards development is progressing with the remaining standards underway shown on the timeline diagram below, with a summary of the current status by standard:



Development Update

Leadership and People Fire Standards

- The FSB approved the publication of the **Leading the Service** and **Leading and Developing People Fire Standards** on 21 December 2022. Launch of the two standards took place in January 2023.

A third phase of development work was approved by the FSB at the Board meeting on 15 June 2022. The Board agreed to the following standards for production as part of phase three:

No.	Activity / Potential Fire Standard	Activity Framework Category
1	Fire Control	Service Delivery
2	Communications and Engagement	Cultural and Enabling
3	Commercial and Procurement (Resources)	Enabling
4	Finance and Assurance (Resources)	Enabling
5	Asset Management (Resources)	Enabling

Fire Control Fire Standard

- Development on the Fire Control Fire Standard commenced in September 2022.
- Peer review took place in October 2022.
- Consultation on the standard closed on 6 February 2023
- The FSB approved the publication Fire Control Fire Standard in March 2023.

Communications, Engagement and Consultation Fire Standard

- Development on this standard commenced in September 2022.
- Peer review took place in October 2022.
- Consultation on the standard closed on 6 February 2023
- The FSB approved the publication Communications and Engagement Fire Standard in March 2023.

Resources Fire Standards: Commercial and Procurement, Finance and Assurance, Asset Management

- Initiating, scoping and early development of these three standards commenced in March 2023
- Peer review is expected to take place in Summer 2023
- Consultation is expected to take place in Autumn 2023
- Further updates on this will be provided in the next report.

It is anticipated that the full suite of standards will total approximately 21.

Implementation support

The FSB, through the NFCC Fire Standards and Implementation Teams, will be continuing to support services as they work to achieve the Fire Standards. Implementation tools are provided with all published Fire Standards.

Impact and Benefits Realisation

The FSB are keen to understand the impact of the Fire Standards now that the first standards have been published. As part of both the development process and the consultation on each Fire Standard we ask services about potential impacts.

The FSB engaged with services across England between July and November 2022 to help better understand impacts and review progress to date. They have gathered a wide range of feedback from services and have used this to develop a Communications and Engagement Strategy which was approved at the 21 December Board meeting. Following this approval, a Communications and Engagement Plan is currently being developed which will aim to support services through ongoing engagement and development of communications tools.

Review of Fire Standards

The recent HMICFRS Spotlight Report on Culture and Values identified a number of recommendations for the Fire Standards Board. In light of this, it is anticipated that throughout 2023 a review of a number Fire Standards will take place. The Fire Standards Team are currently developing a plan with indicative timelines of when these will take place and an exceptional Board meeting to discuss this plan is due to take place in June 2023. This plan will be shared in due course.

The FSB has a defined periodic review process in place following publication of a Fire Standard but can initiate an exceptional review should the need arise. The first Fire Standards to undergo the agreed periodic review are as follows:

- Operational Preparedness
- Operational Competence
- Operational Learning
- Emergency Response Driver

The FSB are developing plans alongside the review of Fire Standards identified in the HMICFRS Spotlight Review on Culture and Values and will confirm when the review of Fire Standards will take place within the next report.

Background notes for information

The Fire Standards Board (FSB) is responsible for the identification, organisation, development and maintenance of professional standards for fire and rescue services in England. Led by an independent Chair and Vice Chair, membership of the Board includes the NFCC, employers (both the LGA and the APCC) and the Home Office.

The LGA representative on the Board is Cllr Nick Chard.

The FSB continues to meet regularly to review the progress made on Fire Standards development. Its next meeting is scheduled for 31st July 2023.

Given the various stages of development required and the time needed for engagement with services in the early stages, as well as through formal consultation, development work and publications are staggered. This is primarily done to align capacity and resources in a considered way, but also to pace the rate at which standards are released to services.

Once approved, Fire Standards are shared on the [Fire Standards Board website](#).

Services should now be aware of the requirements being placed upon them through these Fire Standards. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) will be referencing the standards in their inspection arrangements and therefore services should be prepared to evidence their progress towards achieving them.

The Fire Standards Board would welcome and appreciate the support of fire authority chairs and members in:

1. Ensuring their services are enabled to engage in Fire Standards by releasing their subject matter experts to support development work and peer review through the NFCC where appropriate and feasible.
2. Responding to the Fire Standards consultations as they are published; and,
3. Supporting activities to achieve those Fire Standards through implementation once approved and published.