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| Title of Paper | Fire Standards Progress Report |
| Decision or Information | For information |
| Title and Date of Meeting | LGA Fire Commission Meeting 9 th June 2023 |
| Attachments | None |

Summary

This paper provides members of the LGA Fire Commission with a summary of the progress on the Fire Standards.

The Fire Standards Board (FSB) last met formally on 30th March 2023. The Board has agreed to hold an exceptional meeting on 13th June 2023 to discuss the recommendations for the FSB contained in HMICFRS Values and Culture Spotlight Report (see below).

The next scheduled Board meeting is 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 of the Publication and Production of Fire Standards

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 FSB approved the publication of both **Leading the Service** and **Leading and Developing People Fire Standards** in December 2022 and they were launched in January 2023.

The Fire Control Fire Standard and **Communication and Engagement Fire Standard** were both approved at the Board’s March 2023 meeting and launched in April 2023

The third phase of Fire Standards development is progressing with the remaining standards underway shown on the timeline diagram below.

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

Phase Three Fire Standards Development



Progress with Development Work

The next areas of activity being considered for Fire Standards include:

- Commercial and Procurement
- Financial Management and Internal Governance
- Asset Management

These three standards have working titles based on scoping work to date and are being developed in parallel as some of the activities are inter-linked or interdependent. It is anticipated that through the drafting and peer review stages of development more clarity about their actual content and the number of standards required will be clarified.

Work to date has included:

- Initiating, scoping and early development of these three standards commenced in March 2023
- Peer review expected to take place by July 2023
- Consultation expected to take place in Autumn 2023

Digital and IT

- The discovery and scoping phase of this standards is anticipated to commence in Spring 2024 subject to the outcomes of work related to the HMICFRS Culture Report.

Implementation support

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

The NFCC has regional Implementation Liaison Managers to assist services with their work in achieving the standards. The FSB Chairs also visit services across the Country, speaking about the standards, the benefits from implementing them and aiding senior leadership teams.

Should a service wish to host a visit of the FSB Chairs, please inform the NFCC Fire Standards Team on fsb@nfcc.org.uk.

Impact and Benefits Realisation

The FSB is keen to understand the impact of the published Fire Standards. 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. In doing so it gathered a wide range of feedback from services and have used this to develop a Communications and Engagement Strategy which was approved at the December Board meeting. A Communications and Engagement Plan and

Schedule is currently being developed which aims to help support services with achieving the standards through a range of activities and communication channels.

Review of Fire Standards

The recent HMICFRS Spotlight Report on Culture and Values made several recommendations for the FSB. Subject to agreement at the extraordinary Board Meeting on 13 June 2023, it is anticipated that throughout the remainder of 2023 the review of a number of Fire Standards will take place following the Board's agreed exceptional review process.

This is in addition to the FSB's periodic review process which is linked to the publication of each Fire Standard and allows for an exceptional review if needed.

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.

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 of the respective Fire Standards 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. HMICFRS reference the standards in their inspections and services should be prepared to evidence their progress towards achieving them.

The FSB welcomes and appreciates the support of fire authority chairs and members.