

HMICFRS FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE INSPECTION 2021/22 – SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FROM TRANCHE 1



REPORT OF CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

For Information

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS)' summary of findings from their 2021/22 Inspection of the twelve 'Tranche 1' fire and rescue services attached as Appendix 1.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS













- 2.1 Members are asked to note HMICFRS' summary of findings from their inspection of the twelve 'Tranche 1' fire and rescue services attached as Appendix 1.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 As part of its reform agenda, the Government has introduced an independent inspection regime for Fire and Rescue Authorities in England – and the fire and rescue service they oversee. The inspections are delivered by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS). The chief fire and rescue inspector and inspectors of fire and rescue authorities in England have powers of inspection given to them by the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, as amended by the Policing and Crime Act 2017.
- 3.2 The Inspectorate provides a crucial assurance function to consider how effective and efficient fire and rescue authorities are, how well they manage their people and whether they are fulfilling their statutory obligations. The Inspectorate also highlights good practice and identifies areas where improvement is needed so that remedial or constructive action can be taken.
- 3.3 The first round of Fire and Rescue Service Inspections took place in 2018/19 and comprised three tranches inspections. A further round of Inspections for 2021/22, comprising three tranches of Fire and Rescue Services is underway and is at various stages of completion. Tranche 1 FRSs have concluded their inspections and have had their outcomes published in December 2021; Tranche 2 FRSs are currently being inspected and Tranche 3 FRSs are currently preparing for their inspections in May 2022.

4. **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FROM HMICFRS INSPECTION OF TRANCHE 1 FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES 2021/22**

- 4.1 The first tranche of the Inspections 2021/22 were undertaken in 12 fire and rescue services in Spring 2021, namely: Avon, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Cornwall, Greater Manchester, Hereford and Worcester, Lincolnshire, Merseyside, Northumberland and Surrey. HMICFRS has now published the results of those inspections and the full inspection reports are available from <https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmicfrs/fire-and-rescue-services/publications/>
- 4.2 FRSs were graded according to the findings of HMICFRS and a summary of these are highlighted in the table below showing their direction of travel since 2018/19.

Pillar of Judgement	Number of Fire and Rescue Services							
	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate	
	2021/22	2018/19	2021/22	2018/19	2021/22	2018/19	2021/22	2018/19
Effective	0	0	4	6	8	6	0	0
								
Efficiency	1	0	2	4	9	7	0	1
								
People	0	0	5	4	7	7	0	1
								

- 4.3 Further details of the outcomes of the elements that make up the pillars are set out in Appendix 1.
- 4.4 Cleveland Fire Brigade is in the third tranche of inspections set to take place in May 2022; further reports will be brought to the Executive Committee in this respect.

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