

FIRE STANDARDS

REPORT OF CHIEF FIRE OFFICER



For Information

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to introduce Members of the CFA Executive Committee to the work of the Fire Standards Board and provide Members with a progress update on Phase One of the Fire Standards Board Delivery Plan.
- 1.2 It also provides Members with a look forward to those areas being considered by the Fire Standards Board for the Phase Two Fire Standards delivery plan.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the contents of the report for information.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Fire Standards Board was established in 2019 with funding support from the Home Office to develop a suite of professional Fire Standards. There is an expectation from the Minister that a number of Fire Standards will be developed within this financial year.
- 3.2 The model for the Fire Standards Board was to be sector-led but with an independent Chair and Vice Chair to provide experience and diversity of thought. Membership includes the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC), employers (both the LGA and the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) and the Home Office. It receives support through the NFCC Central Programme Office (CPO) and commissions work to the NFCC, as the subject matter experts, for support with developing the Fire Standards.
- 3.3 The Fire Standards Board is responsible for approving Fire Standards and the approach to their development. It sets the priorities for standards development work. It commissions work based on proposals from third parties, monitors progress with ongoing work and approves completed work.

It seeks to ensure that any Fire Standards presented for approval have:-

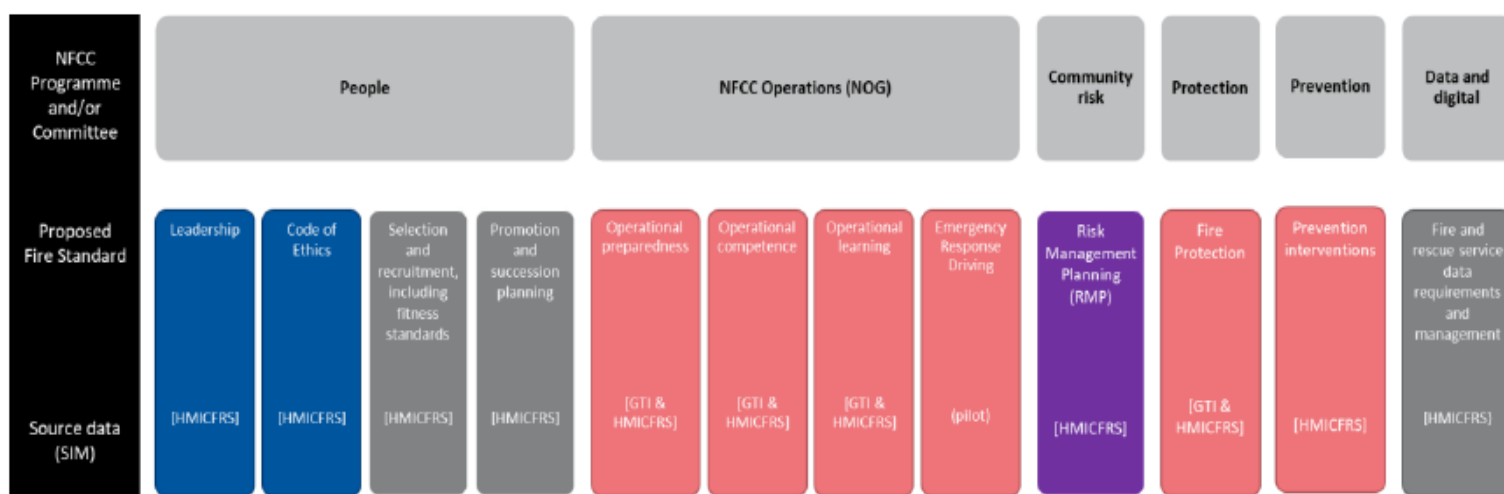
- been developed in line with the agreed development process
- undergone appropriate consultation with subject matter experts and relevant stakeholders
- undergone an independent quality assurance process

- 3.4 The Standards Board are striving to create a suite of Fire Standards that are easily understandable and clear, consistent in structure and are based on defining what good looks like at an organisational level.
- 3.5 The key part of each Fire Standard is the “desired outcome” statement. It is proposed the outcome statements will be aspirational in part driving for continuous improvement

4. **FIRE STANDARDS**

4.1 **Phase One Fire Standards**

- 4.2 The first phase of Fire Standards was agreed by the Board and is show in the figure below:-



- 4.3 This figure shows the responsible NFCC Programme or Committee; the proposed Fire Standard title; and the source of evidence providing the rationale for the requirement for a Fire Standard drawn from the NFCC Strategic Improvement Model (SIM).
- 4.4 The order for Fire Standards development has been based on the national priorities for improvement identified through the SIM, taking into consideration where work was already in progress to support a Fire Standard.
- 4.5 The first four Fire Standards as part of the phase one delivery plan are:-
- Emergency Response Driver Training
 - Operational Response
 - Operational Competence
 - Operational Preparedness
 - Operational Learning
- 4.6 These Fire Standards have now been subject to quality assurance and were published and launched on 16th February 2021 at <https://www.ukfrs.com/fire-standards>.

4.7 Fire Standards Development – Progress Report

4.8 The table attached as Appendix A details the status and progress made against each Fire Standard included in phase one at the time of the Fire Standards Board in December 2020.

4.9 The expected publication dates are shown on the table along with an indication of any slippage on publication dates. The rationale for any changes is included in the progress table.

4.10 Fire Standards Phase Two Proposals

4.11 The areas summarised in Appendix B have been proposed as a basis for the Phase Two Fire Standards delivery plan. However, there are a number of potential new drivers for change that are likely to impact on national priorities and the phase two proposals. These drivers for change include:

- Learning from the FRS response to COVID
- HMICFRS COVID response and State of Fire reports 2021
- Grenfell Tower Inquiry – Phase Two recommendations
- Fit for the Future.

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