

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY
DATE: 20TH JUNE 2018
REPORT OF: CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE
AUTHOR: ANDREW LEADBETTER

SUBJECT: FIRE AND RESCUE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK
FOR ENGLAND (2018)

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members about:

the introduction of a new Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (the Framework); and

work planned by officers to secure compliance with the Framework.

Recommended: That Members

- [1] Note the content of the report; and
- [2] Instruct officers to report to Performance and Overview Committee about compliance.

Background

2. Section 21 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 requires the Secretary of State to prepare a fire and rescue national framework, which
 - a) *must set out priorities and objectives for fire and rescue authorities in connection with the discharge of their functions;*
 - b) *may contain guidance to fire and rescue authorities in connection with the discharge of any of their functions; and*
 - c) *may contain any other matter relating to fire and rescue authorities or their functions that the Secretary of State considers appropriate.*
3. The Authority is required to produce an Annual Statement of Assurance. The Framework states that:

The statement should outline the way in which the authority and its fire and rescue service has had regard – in the period covered by the document – to this National Framework, the Integrated Risk Management Plan and to any strategic plan ... prepared by the authority for that period. The authority must also provide assurance to

their community and to government on financial, governance and operational matters.

Information

4. The Framework was published on 8th May 2018. A copy is attached to this report as Appendix 1. It is understood that the Government was keen to have the new version in place prior to HMICFRS commencing the upcoming tranche of inspections.
5. Whilst the Framework contains a number of requirements that are similar, or the same as those in the previous version, it does have a number of new requirements. The Foreword by the Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP, the Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service contains three key themes:

Engaging effectively with other agencies;

Working in collaboration to enhance public safety;

Fire reform (see page 3 of the Framework for a list of reforms).
6. The Foreword also makes reference to efficiency and effectiveness as well as Grenfell and the work of Dame Judith Hackett.
7. The Framework states that the priorities for fire and rescue authorities are to:
 - *make appropriate provision for fire prevention and protection activities and response to fire and rescue related incidents;*
 - *identify and assess the full range of foreseeable fire and rescue related risks their areas face;*
 - *collaborate with emergency services and other local and national partners to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the service they provide;*
 - *be accountable to communities for the service they provide; and*
 - *develop and maintain a workforce that is professional, resilient, skilled, flexible and diverse.*
8. Officers have prepared a document which provides an analysis of the requirements in the Framework, allocating responsibility, commenting on the current position and where necessary begging questions which need to be answered. The intention is to prepare an action plan in the next month or so. It is believed that this process is good practice and that it will also be useful in the run up to the inspection in July.

Financial Implications

9. The Framework does not, in itself, appear to have financial implications. However, the section on 'Achieving Value for Money' includes requirements that will be carefully considered.

Legal Implications

10. It is possible that compliance with the requirements in the Framework could have legal implications. Where these arise they will be considered as the action plan is developed.

Equality and Diversity Implications

11. It is possible that compliance with the requirements in the Framework could have equality and diversity implications. Where these arise they will be considered as the action plan is developed.

Environmental Implications

12. There are no environmental implications to consider.

BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE

Appendix 1 – Fire and Rescue National Framework for England