

<b>MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY</b>			
<b>MEETING OF THE:</b>	<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE</b>		
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>8 APRIL 2021</b>	<b>REPORT NO:</b>	<b>CFO/017/21</b>
<b>PRESENTING OFFICER</b>	<b>CHIEF FIRE OFFICER</b>		
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	<b>DEB APPLETON</b>	<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	<b>DEB APPLETON</b>
<b>OFFICERS CONSULTED:</b>	<b>STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM</b>		
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>HMICFRS INSPECTION SELF-ASSESSMENT</b>		

<b>APPENDICES:</b>	<b>APPENDIX A:</b>	<b>HMICFRS SELF ASSESSMENT 2021</b>
	<b>APPENDIX B:</b>	<b>HMICFRS SELF ASSESSMENT 2020</b>

### **Purpose of Report**

1. To inform Members that Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service's (MFRS) inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) will start on 10<sup>th</sup> May and that a self-assessment (Appendix A) and document request have been submitted as part of the inspection process.

### **Recommendation**

2. That Members note the information contained in this report about MFRS's forthcoming HMICFRS inspection.

### **Introduction and Background**

3. Members will recall that MFRS was inspected in December 2018 as part of the first round of Fire and Rescue Service inspection by HMICFRS and again in October 2020 as part of a Covid inspection. Round two of the full FRS inspection had been due to take place in 2020 but was postponed due to the pandemic. MFRS is in the first tranche of inspections, which re started in March 2021. The inspection will be entirely virtual and will take place over a six-week period starting on 10<sup>th</sup> May.
4. The first part of the inspection process is the provision of a range of documents requested by HMICFRS and a self-assessment. Both have now been provided to the inspectorate. As a result of MFRS also being in the first tranche of inspection in the postponed 2020 round, the Service had submitted a self-assessment (Appendix B) just before lockdown in March 2020 and HMICFRS have confirmed that will be considered alongside the new self-assessment.
5. The two self-assessments contain slightly different questions, but are similar in that they are asking for a look back at what the Service has delivered and what

it plans to deliver in the coming year, alongside how it has progressed against previous inspection recommendations.

6. The self-assessments will be shared with staff on the intranet Portal to help them prepare for inspection and will also become the focus of a Strategic Briefing with the HMI to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> May. The previous HMI for the Northern region, Mr Phil Gormley, has left the inspectorate, to be replaced in April by Mr Andy Cooke.
7. Prior to the inspection, an HMICFRS staff survey will be shared with staff and the inspectorate also has a confidential reporting line which anyone can use to share information with them. A public servery is also part of the process.
8. The six-week inspection will consist of interviews with the Chair of the Authority, the Chief Fire Officer, key managers and partners, plus desk-top reviews of processes and focus groups with a range of staff. There will be more focus in this inspection on equality, diversity and inclusion and on studying the way in which the Service deals with all aspects of an incident from initial call, through response and any outcomes for Prevention, protection and other departments.

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#### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

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9. There are no Equality and Diversity implications arising from this report.

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#### **Staff Implications**

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10. Staff are a key part of the inspection process and work is ongoing to ensure they are aware of the process and what will be required of them.

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#### **Legal Implications**

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11. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

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#### **Financial Implications & Value for Money**

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12. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

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#### **Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications**

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13. There are no risk management, health and safety and environmental implications arising from this report.

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#### **Contribution to Our Mission: *Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters***

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14. HMICFRS inspection is designed to highlight any issues and give assurances to communities about the efficiency and effectiveness of fires and rescue services and how they treat their people.

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#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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**GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

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