



## **COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY**

**11 JUNE 2018**

### **FIRE AND RESCUE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ENGLAND**

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#### **REPORT OF ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE OFFICER SERVICE SUPPORT**

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##### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform members of the publication of the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (attached as Appendix A) and any associated implications for the Combined Fire Authority (CFA).

##### **Background**

2. At the CFA Meeting on 13 February 2018 members were informed of the publication of the 'Fire and Rescue National Framework for England: Government Consultation. The Authority provided a response to the consultation which ended on 14 February 2018.
3. The National Framework sets out the Government's expectations for the Fire and Rescue Service and what is required of Fire and Rescue Authorities to meet those expectations. The Government has a duty, under Section 21, of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 to produce the Framework, keep it under review and revise it if necessary.
4. Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) must have regard to the Framework in carrying out their duties. Under Section 25 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, the Secretary of State is required to prepare a biennial report to Parliament on the extent to which FRA are acting in accordance with the Framework.
5. The National Framework was last updated in 2012 and the consultation document for the latest Framework contained a number of significant changes to the previous version, reflecting some of the changes that are being introduced through the Fire Reform Programme and provisions in the Policing and Crime Act 2017 on emergency service collaboration and changes to governance arrangements.
6. The new Fire and Rescue National Framework for England was published by the Home Office (HO) on 08 May 2018 and is open ended in duration.

## **Fire Reform Programme**

7. As stated in section 5, the HO outlined an ambitious programme of reform for the fire and rescue sector in 2016. The new National Framework seeks to embed these reforms, which include:
  - Transforming local governance of fire and rescue by enabling mayors and police and crime commissioners to take on responsibility for their fire and rescue service where a local case is made;
  - Establishing Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) as an independent inspection regime for fire and rescue services;
  - Developing a comprehensive set of professional standards to drive sector improvement;
  - Supporting services to transform commercially with more efficient procurement and collaboration;
  - Increasing the transparency of services with the publication of greater performance data and the creation of a new national fire website; and
  - Driving forward an ambitious programme for workforce reform; enhancing: professionalism; management and leadership; training and development; equality and diversity; culture; and options for flexible working.

## **Fire and Rescue National Framework for England Priorities**

8. The HO expect to see the above areas of reform embedded in the plans developed by FRA to ensure they deliver on the priorities detailed in this National Framework; these are:
  - 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.

## **Implications for the Authority**

9. The Service Leadership Team has developed a Gap Analysis and Action Plan which will help ensure the Authority complies with all the statutory requirements of the National Framework 2018. A copy of the Gap Analysis and Action Plan is contained as Appendix B.
10. The analysis also shows 2 areas of partial compliance; both of these areas being new requirements introduced by the new Framework. The Service is progressing work in both areas to demonstrate compliance.

## **Conclusion**

11. The National Framework 2018 is a key strategic document for the CFA. There are a number of implications for the Authority in the document and further work is being taken forward at national, regional and local levels. The Authority, however, is well placed to address these implications and has developed a robust Gap Analysis and Action Plan to ensure compliance against all the requirements. Completion of the Action Plan will assist the Authority to provide assurance to local communities, Government and the HMICFRS on operational matters.

## **Recommendations**

12. Members are asked to:

- (a) **Note** the report;
- (b) **Note** publication of the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England 2018 document contained as Appendix A;
- (c) **Note** the associated Gap Analysis and Action Plan contained at Appendix B;
- (d) **Receive** further reports to update on progress with the Action Plan.