

CFRS Corporate Summary

Date : 7th November 2024

Agenda Item : 05

Originating Officer : Mark Clement, Head of Safety and Assurance

1. What is the Report About? (Executive Summary)

- 1.1 This document provides the Joint Audit Committee with a headline summary of recent developments both locally and nationally that may aid the Committee in their deliberations.

2. Local

Latest recruits

- 2.1 Our latest cohort of 16 wholetime recruits has commenced this week in Barrow. The course will conclude on 22 November where our new Firefighters will be allocated their Watch and Fire Station and start their operational career in December.

3 National

Grenfell Report

- 3.1 The Inquiry's final phase 2 report has been published which has rightly dominated the news over the last 24hrs. The inquiry was separated into two phases.
 - x Phase 1 focused on the events on the night
 - x Phase 2 examined the cause of the event
- 3.2 The majority of the impacts and subsequent reform on the way in which the Fire & Rescue sector manage its prevention, protection and operational response to tall buildings has been underway since The Chairman published his Phase 1 report on 30 October 2019.
- 3.3 Police and prosecutors have said they will need until the end of 2025 to complete their investigation, before handing it on to the Crown Prosecution Service. And then final decisions on potential criminal charges will not come until the end of 2026.

3.4 Cumbria has a very low number of tall buildings, however we continue to review our arrangements when any new information or guidance is made available. We are convening at the end of September to formulate our next steps in response to the phase 2 report.

4 Political / Governance

HMIC Report

4.1 HMIC have recently published their thematic report: Standards of behaviour: The handling of misconduct in fire and rescue services.

4.2 The report issued 15 recommendation to every FRS. We have completed a bench marking exercise against our existing working practices. In summary we feel we can evidence that we meet 9 of the recommendations in full, with partial evidence against the remaining 6. There are no recommendations that have caught us cold or we were not already working towards. We now continue with the remaining actions need to achieve all 15 recommendations by the deadlines that have been set by the HMIC within the report.

HMIC

4.3 Preparation continues to take place for our forthcoming HMIC inspection in the new year. We are completing a significant piece of work to align our CRMP, to our corporate strategies and publish our annual delivery plans, bringing together the financial requirements to deliver objectives within allocated budgets.

Mark Clement
Head of Safety and Assurance