

**Open Report on behalf of Nick Borrill, Chief Fire Officer**

Report to:	<b>Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>12 December 2017</b>
Subject:	<b>Fire and Rescue – Peer Challenge Report</b>

**Summary:**

Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue (LFR) undertook a Local Government Association and National Fire Chiefs Council Fire Peer Challenge over the period 26 - 29 September 2017. The attached report highlights the key outcomes and findings from that Peer Challenge process. Feedback from the Peer Challenge was generally positive. An action plan is currently being developed to address those 'areas for consideration' identified in the report.

**Actions Required:**

The Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider and note the contents of the report and receive an update against the associated action plan in June 2018.

## **1. Background**

Fire Peer Challenge, jointly sponsored by the Local Government Association (LGA) and the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC), is part of the approach to sector led improvement. The purpose of the review was to provide external challenge to help support improvement and to reflect how the Service is performing across a number of key areas. The Peer Challenge process is structured around 7 Key Assessment Areas and 6 Strategic Leadership questions as outlined in the Operational Assessment and Peer Challenge toolkit. In addition to these areas, the Service also requested the Peer team to focus on the following:

- Sense check on Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP) changes
- Collaboration
- Workforce Reform

The Peer Challenge took place in LFR from 26-29 September 2017 and consisted of a range of on-site activities including interviews, focus groups and fire station visits. This complemented a review of supporting documentation provided to the Peer Team in advance of their visit.

The Peer team comprised the Chief Fire Officer from Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service (FRS), the Chairman of Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority, fire officers from Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire and Nottinghamshire FRS and a programme manager from the LGA. Key findings from the Peer Challenge included that:

- There is pride and a positive culture across LFR
- IRMP changes have been well managed with good staff and partner engagement, ensuring that LFR remains fit for purpose
- There is a clear commitment to blue light collaboration which is well resourced and governed

As with any Peer Challenge process there were also a number of ‘areas for consideration’ identified. These are currently being reviewed and an action plan developed to address the areas as appropriate.

## 2. Conclusion

The Fire Peer Challenge is a voluntary process that is managed by and delivered for the sector. It is not a form of sector-led inspection and is a mechanism to provide FRS with information that allows them to challenge their operational service delivery and their organisational effectiveness, to ensure they are efficient, effective and robust.

## 3. Consultation

### a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

## 4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Fire Peer Challenge Report November 2017

## 5. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Operational Assessment and Fire Peer Challenge Toolkit	<a href="https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/access-new-operational-as-c7f.pdf">https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/access-new-operational-as-c7f.pdf</a>

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