

<b>REPORT REFERENCE NO.</b>	<b>DSFRA/18/5</b>
<b>MEETING</b>	<b>DEVON &amp; SOMERSET FIRE &amp; RESCUE AUTHORITY (BUDGET MEETING)</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>16 FEBRUARY 2018</b>
<b>SUBJECT OF REPORT</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS – FIRE &amp; RESCUE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ENGLAND AND HER MAJESTY’S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY AND FIRE &amp; RESCUE SERVICES (HMICFRS) INSPECTION PROGRAMME AND FRAMEWORK 2018 - 19</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	<b>Chief Fire Officer</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<i>That, subject to incorporation of any amendments as may be indicated at the meeting, the responses to the consultations on the Fire &amp; Rescue National Framework for England and Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire &amp; Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Inspection Programme and Framework 2018 – 19 – as appended to this report – be approved and the Chief Fire Officer authorised to submit them on behalf of the Authority.</i>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<p>This report advises the Authority on two significant consultations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Fire &amp; Rescue National Framework for England; and</li> <li>• Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire &amp; Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Inspection Programme and Framework 2018 – 19</li> </ul> <p>and details proposed responses to both consultations.</p>
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	Nil.
<b>EQUALITY RISKS AND BENEFITS ANALYSIS (ERBA)</b>	Not applicable.
<b>APPENDICES</b>	<p>A. Home Office Consultation Document “Fire and Rescue National Framework for England”.</p> <p>B. Her Majesty’s Inspectorate for Constabulary and Fire &amp; Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Consultation Document “Inspection Programme and Framework 2018 – 19”.</p> <p>C. Proposed draft response to National Framework consultation.</p> <p>D. Proposed draft response to Inspection Programme consultation.</p>
<b>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	<p>Fire &amp; Rescue Services Act 2004 (as amended).</p> <p>Consultation documents as referred to above.</p>

## **1. HOME OFFICE CONSULTATION – FIRE AND RESCUE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ENGLAND**

- 1.1 Section 21 of the Fire & Rescue Services Act 2004 (as amended) (“the Act”) requires the Secretary of State to prepare and keep under review a Fire & Rescue National Framework setting out priorities for fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) in connection with discharging their functions. Fire and rescue authorities “...must have regard to the Framework in carrying out their functions”.
- 1.2 Section 22 of the Act provides the Secretary of State with the power to issue an order (to do something; to stop doing something; or not to do something) where it is considered that a fire and rescue authority is failing or is likely to fail to act in accordance with the Framework.
- 1.3 The National Framework was last updated in 2012 since which time a number of changes have occurred which the Home Office (which – in 2016 - assumed responsibility for fire and rescue policy, nationally, from the Department for Communities and Local Government) feels warrant a full revision to the Framework. These changes include:
- creation of the new inspectorate for fire and rescue services (under the auspices of an expanded Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services);
  - the creation of the National Fire Chiefs’ Council (NFCC); and
  - the new duty of emergency services collaboration introduced by the Policing and Crime Act 2017 and the changes for fire and rescue governance as provided for in that Act.
- 1.4 The draft Framework proposes the following broad priorities and objectives for fire and rescue authorities:
- identify and assess the full range of foreseeable fire and rescue related risks in the particular geographical area served;
  - make appropriate provision for fire prevention and protection activities and response to fire and rescue related incidents;
  - collaborate with emergency services and other local and national partners to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of service provision;
  - be accountable to communities for the services provided; and
  - develop and maintain a resilient, skilled, flexible and diverse workforce.
- 1.5 The draft Framework also addresses the re-engagement of senior officers post-retirement, which had been subject to an earlier consultation.
- 1.6 A copy of the consultation document is attached at Appendix A to this report. The deadline for responding to the consultation is 14 February 2018. In light of its significance, however, the Home Office has been approached and has agreed an extension of this deadline to 17.00hours on Friday 16 February 2018 to enable the Authority to consider and inform the consultation response, a proposed draft of which is attached at Appendix C to this report.

**2. HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY AND FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES (HMICFRS) CONSULTATION ON INSPECTION PROGRAMME AND FRAMEWORK 2018 - 19**

- 2.1. In July 2017, the remit of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMIC) was extended to include inspections of fire and rescue services in England, with the Inspectorate renamed Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS).
- 2.2. Since that time, the Inspectorate has been working with fire and rescue service (by recruiting experts from the sector to carry out the inspections, and by taking advice from senior service representatives who are members of the external reference group) to develop its first
- 2.3. The inspection programme will be designed to promote improvement in all aspects of the work undertaken by fire and rescue services and will give prominence to the following principal themes:.
- how effective each fire and rescue service is at preventing, protecting and responding to incidents;
  - whether the service provides value for money;
  - whether the service understands where future risks lie; and
  - the ability of the service to train staff, embrace diversity and develop a positive working culture.
- 2.4. The HMICFRS consultation document (attached at Appendix B) seeks responses to seven questions about how the inspection of fire and rescue services should be carried out. The responses received to the consultation will be used to develop a programme, framework and methodology for the inspection.
- 2.5. The closing date for responding to the consultation is 19 February 2018. A proposed draft response on behalf of this Authority is attached at Appendix D.

**3. CONCLUSION**

- 3.1. The two consultation documents referenced in this report represent significant issues for this Authority. The Authority is invited to consider and – subject to any amendments it may wish to make – approve the responses for submission.

**GLENN ASKEW**  
**Chief Fire Officer**