

ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY REPORT



COMMITTEE	AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING	24 JULY 2023
SUBJECT	RBFRS ACTION PLAN FOR HIS MAJESTY INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY AND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE INSPECTION REPORT 2023
LEAD OFFICER	PAUL BREMBLE, HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES
LEAD MEMBER	N/A
EXEMPT INFORMATION	NONE
ACTION	DECISION

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 In autumn 2022, His Majesty Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS), carried out the second full inspection of Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) since the inspectorate took responsibility for Fire and Rescue in 2019.
- 1.2 The inspection resulted in the graded judgment of Good in the three areas of the inspection.
- 1.3 The inspection recognised the continued improvements that RBFRS had made since the first inspection.
- 1.4 However the inspectorate highlighted 12 areas for improvement (AFI), this report outlines those areas and the actions the service will take to improve on these findings.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **APPROVE** RBFRS action plan for HMICFRS Areas for Improvement (AFI).

3. REPORT

- 3.1 The inspectorate inspected RBFRS in autumn 2022 as part of the tranche 3 inspection timetable. The full report for RBFRS was released in January 2023. The report highlighted 12 areas of improvement for RBFRS.

- 3.2 The inspection covers all areas of the service, categorising them under three headings.
 - 3.2.1 Effectiveness- how effective is the service at keeping people safe and secure.
 - 3.2.2 Efficiency- how efficient is the service at keeping people safe and secure.
 - 3.2.3 People- how well does the service look after its people.
- 3.3 RBFRS was graded Good in all three areas.
- 3.4 HMICFRS highlighted “Area for Improvement” in the three areas.
 - 3.4.1 Effectiveness, 6 new AFI.
 - 3.4.2 Efficiency 1 new AFI.
 - 3.4.3 People 5 new AFI.
- 3.5 RBFRS has identified within the Corporate Plan and CRMP 2023/27, Annual plan and Service level plans, areas of work that will look to address these AFI.
- 3.6 Appendix A outlines the areas that have been identified and the actions the service will carry out to improve these areas.
- 3.7 Areas for Improvement, are areas the inspectorate define as falling short of expected standards and are not accompanied by recommendations.
- 3.8 It should be noted that RBFRS did not receive any causes of concern, which are defined as serious, critical or systemic shortcomings

4. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC COMMITMENTS

- 4.1 Prevention: We will reduce the risk to our communities through our partnership duties and prevention education activities, ensuring that our services are accessible to all.
- 4.2 Protection: We will support those with responsibility for premises to understand their duties in ensuring the safety of all people using buildings covered by the Building Safety Act 2022 and Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, whilst ensuring that our services are accessible to all.
- 4.3 Response: We will ensure that our people are trained and resources are located to provide the most effective response and to have a positive impact on incidents in our communities.
- 4.4 Resilience: We will ensure we are resilient and work with our partners to promote and build resilience in the communities we serve.
- 4.5 Sustainability: We will ensure that we provide a financially sustainable and environmentally friendly service to our communities.
- 4.6 People: We will support our staff by providing a safe and inclusive environment for them to thrive in, building a diverse organisation that is engaged with, and accessible to, our communities.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Any financial implications from an AFI will be met by existing budgets.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Any actions will be fully assessed and recorded within an Equality Impact Assessment.

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

8.1 By not addressing the AFI's this may result in a low grading in the next inspection.

9. CONSISTENCY WITH DUTY TO COLLABORATE

9.1 N/A.

10. PRINCIPAL CONSULTATION

10.1 N/A.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 [Effectiveness, efficiency and people 2021/22: An inspection of Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/berkshire-fire-and-rescue-service/inspections/effectiveness-efficiency-and-people-2021-22/)

12. APPENDICES

12.1 Appendix A HMICFRS Areas of Improvement.

13. CONTACT DETAILS

13.1 Paul Bremble, bremblep@RBFERS.co.uk