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Item Number	Item 6 – Paper 2
Title of Paper	Fire Standards Progress Update and Chairs’ Report
Decision or Information	For information
Date of Meeting	10 th June 2024
Presented by	Fire Standards Team
Attachments	None

Summary

This paper provides an update on the progress made in developing the final phase of the initial suite of Fire Standards being the Resources Fire Standards: Internal Governance and Assurance, Procurement and Commercial, and Digital and Cyber Security. It also provides an update on engagements by the Fire Standards Board Chairs and the NFCC Implementation Support Team in support of the Fire Standards.

The Board is asked to note the contents of this paper.

Resources Fire Standards

The progress made in respect of these Standards is described below:

Internal Governance and Assurance Fire Standard

- This Standard is covered in detail in paper 1, agenda item 5.

Procurement and Commercial Fire Standard

- The Board approved the draft Procurement and Commercial Fire Standard for consultation at the FSB meeting on the 8th March 2024.
- Public consultation ran from 20th March to 6th May 2024. 25 responses were received.
- Comment review sessions are being set up with the cross-sector SME group for June 2024.
- Subject to Board approval, the estimated publication date is on or around August 2024, as per Appendix 1.

Digital and Cyber Security Fire Standard

- The cross-sector SME group produced a draft of the Digital and Cyber Security Fire Standard. This was shared with the Board via email on 27th March 2024, with a request to launch the public consultation.

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- Approval to commence the consultation was received from the Board and this commenced on 2nd May 2024 and will run for approximately 6 weeks until 17th June 2024.
- Subject to Board approval, the estimated publication date is on or around September 2024, as per Appendix 1.

Exceptional Reviews

Two interim mapping grids have been included at Appendices 2 and 3 showing the proposed mapping exercise of finance and asset management elements against the Standards. This has indicated five Fire Standards the team intends to review for this purpose. This will be ongoing work during Q2- Q4 as part of the Fire Standards deliverables for 2024/25.

Chairs' Meetings and Engagements

Since the last Board meeting on 8th March 2024, the Chairs have attended the following:

- LGA Fire Conference – 12th & 13th March 2024
- HMICFRS Misconduct Thematic External Reference Group (ERG) – 18th March 2024
- Service Visit – Cheshire FRS – 3rd April 2024
- NFCC Spring Conference – 22nd & 23rd April 2024
- Emergency Services Times webinar on culture and whistleblowing – 25th April 2024
- HMICFRS Positive Practice Masterclass – 29th April 2024

Future engagement planned by the Chairs' are listed below:

- Greater Manchester FRS Visit – September 2024
- Warwickshire FRS Visit – September 2024
- West Sussex FRS Visit – September 2024
- Nottinghamshire FRS Visit – September 2024

Following a meeting held between the FSB Chairs and NFCC FST, it was agreed that future service visits would be focused on HMICFRS inspection report grades. To date, HMICFRS has completed 16 round three inspections.

Fire Standards Board Website

In March 2024 a new feature was launched on the website to show amendments with a date stamp for any changes made to a Fire Standard. Application of this feature can be seen on the [Leading and Developing People](#), [Leading the Service](#), and [Safeguarding](#) Fire Standards. This feature will be relevant for services being able to identify where changes have been made to Standards as a result of exceptional and periodic reviews.

Implementation Support Team Engagement

The NFCC Implementation Team continues to support services with embedding the Fire Standards through an ongoing programme of workshops. The following table shows the team's engagement with services since the March 2024 Board Meeting:

Engagements March – May 2024	Participant Numbers	Service Numbers
Thematic Leadership Fire Standards – Regional workshop	16	8
Thematic Leadership Fire Standards – Regional workshop	12	4
Fire Standards leads network (North)	4	2
Fire Standards Peer Review (East Midlands)	4	4
Eastern Region Fire Standards Forum	6	6

The team will continue to engage with services both at multi-service workshops and through its continuing programme of individual service engagements.

National workshops will be arranged for the new Internal Governance and Assurance Fire Standard once the launch date is confirmed.

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Appendix 1: Revised Timeline for 2024/25

The table below has been updated with the proposed publication dates for the three Fire Standards in development. The proposed timelines for completion of both exceptional and periodic review work remain unchanged.

Fire Standards	FY 2024-2025											
	Q1 24-25			Q2 24-25			Q3 24-25			Q4 24-25		
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
In development												
Resources - Procurement & Commercial												
Resources - Internal Governance and Assurance												
Digital and Cyber Security												

Exceptional Review Process Related to Finance and Asset Management* (Proposed timelines to be confirmed by FSB)												
Leading the Service												
Leading and Developing People												
CRMP												
Emergency Preparedness and Resilience												
Data Management												

Periodic Reviews* (Proposed timelines to be confirmed by FSB)												
Review: Operational Competence												
Review: Operational Preparedness												
Review: Operational Learning												
Review: Emergency Response Driver												
Review: Code of Ethics												
Review: Prevention												
Review: Protection												

In development

This represents the Fire Standards that will complete the initial suite.

Exceptional Review

This shows a potential timeline for the agreed work to complete the exceptional reviews necessary to consider, and incorporate, where appropriate, the outstanding finance and asset management elements into the other Fire Standards identified.

Periodic review

This shows a potential timeline for starting periodic reviews of published standards. The initial stage of the process will identify if a review is needed and the scale of review required (minor, moderate or major) in line with the agreed review processes.

Appendix 2: Financial Activities Mapping Exercise, June 2024 update

The map below is the revised iteration of the finance mapping exercise to be delivered during Q2- Q4 by the Fire Standards Team.

	In Scope	Leading The Service	Leading and Developing People	CRMP	Data Management	Code Of Ethics	Emergency Planning and Resilience	Internal Governance and Assurance	Procurement and Commercial
1	Strategic approach to managing finance and budgets aligned to the vision and resourcing requirements of the service to deliver value for money for the public.	Yellow	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Green
2	Financial planning and budgeting, (medium term, capital programme and efficiency) in line with the requirements identified through its CRMP and the local risk profile.	Yellow	Grey	Red	Grey	Grey	Yellow	Grey	Grey
3	Appropriate capacity and capability to manage the finances of the services to ensure it operates efficiently and effectively.	Green	Green	Grey	Green	Grey	Yellow	Grey	Grey
4	Maximising opportunities to, or benefitting from, collaboration, shared services, or central resources.	Green	Green	Green	Green	Grey	Green	Grey	Green
5	Planning and managing reserves proportionately	Red	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
6	Forecasting and scenario planning	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Grey	Yellow	Grey	Grey
7	Making sure staff costs including staff salary increases and pension cost are calculated, provisioned for and managed correctly and effectively.	Red	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
8	Internal and external audits.	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Green	Grey
9	Monitoring the financial performance of the service	Green	Grey	Grey	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Green	Grey
10	Responding to issues and enabling the service to respond to new and emerging risks.	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Grey	Green	Grey	Grey
11	Ensure senior managers with budget responsibility (but not finance professionals) have the appropriate training and support to enable them to carry out their budget management role effectively to contribute to the efficient running of the service.	Yellow	Red	Grey	Green	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
12	Sharing positive practice and activity engaging with other services and nationally through the NFCC.	Green	Green	Red	Green	Grey	Green	Green	Green

Key:

Red box = no mention of the scope, suggested location in the Fire Standard

Yellow box = wording within Standard partially meets the scope, but more work would be required to strengthen meaning

Green box = scope is mentioned within the Standard so no change necessary

Grey = no action required

Appendix 3: Asset Management Activities Mapping Exercise, June 2024 iteration

The map below is the initial asset management mapping exercise to be delivered during Q2- Q4 by the Fire Standards Team.

	In Scope	Leading The Service	Leading and Developing People	CRMP	Data Management	Code Of Ethics	Emergency Planning and Resilience	Internal Governance and Assurance	Procurement and Commercial
1	Strategic approach to ongoing maintenance of assets	Red	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
2	Monitor, manage and maintain assets with due consideration of full life costing throughout their lifecycle and disposal	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
3	Report on, collect, store and maintain data about assets	Grey	Grey	Grey	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
4	Maintain competency in and awareness of advances in asset management	Yellow	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
5	Deliver asset management activity, which meets legislative obligations	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
6	Commitment to social and environmental impact of assets taking consideration of maximising efficiency, pollution control, minimising contamination and decarbonisation.	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
7	Planning and consideration to ensure the correct assets are in place within the FRS estate to meet responsibilities to protect the communities it serves.	Grey	Grey	Red	Grey	Grey	Yellow	Grey	Grey

Key:

Red box = no mention of the scope, suggested location in the Fire Standard

Yellow box = wording within Standard partially meets the scope, but more work would be required to strengthen meaning

Green box = scope is mentioned within the Standard so no change necessary

Grey = no action required