BOARD PAPER

Item Number	Item 6 – Paper 2
Title of Paper	Draft 2026/27 Business Planning
Decision or Information	For information and decision
Date of Meeting	4 December 2025
Presented by	Fire Standards Team

Summary

This paper identifies proposed items of work for the Fire Standard Board's 2026/27 Business Plan. This is being brought to the Board now in the context of the NFCC/MHCLG annual business planning round which is due for agreement in January 2026. The items identified in this paper or next year's Business Plan are not intended to be exhaustive, but to give a strong indication of where the Board intends to place its focus.

If agreed, these items will be included in the final Business Plan which will be presented for ratification at the Board's March 2026 meeting.

Recommendations

- Board to discuss and agree in principle to the proposed main objectives for its 2026/27 Business Plan.

The NFCC/MHCLG Forward Planning Cycle

The NFCC / MHCLG business planning cycle for 2026/27 is underway, and the Fire Standards Team (FST) is preparing the Fire Standards Board's business plan for 2026/27.

The Plan's general aim is to continue the work currently underway to review the existing Fire Standards (periodic and exceptional reviews as necessary) and raise further awareness of the standards within the sector. Other areas of work include engagement and support to the Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG), in particular through the task and finish groups which are looking at "College of Fire and Rescue" and "Culture and Integrity".

The FST will continue, on behalf of the Board, to support the ongoing evaluation and benefits management work, to build a stable evaluation capability as a BAU activity in 2026. Furthermore, depending on wider NFCC business planning, the team will also support the

continued development of competencies and the impact competency frameworks and a competency methodology may have on the suite of Fire Standards.

The outline objectives for 2026/27 are:

- **Engagement in wider sector initiatives**
  Demonstrating the value and role of Fire Standards to support continuous improvement. This includes engagement with the Ministerial Advisory Group and task and finish groups and working with MHCLG Ministers and officials generally.

  The FSB Chairs and team will also encourage links with other stakeholders in the sector and engage with services directly, including through service visits.

- **Investigate the appetite for new Fire Standards**
  Colleagues from the People, Culture and Leadership Hub, the NFCC Health and Wellbeing Committee and existing contaminants working groups will be engaged to consider whether there is a need for a Health and Wellbeing Fire Standard. A gap analysis of the existing suite of standards will also be done to confirm whether artificial intelligence (AI) is suitably captured within existing Fire Standards.

- **Scheduled Review of Fire Standards**
  The Digital and Cyber, Communications and Engagement and Fire Control Fire Standards are all scheduled for their annual review in 2026/27.