



PFCC
POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER FOR ESSEX

Decision Sheet

Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 105/2017 <i>(Please contact Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for a reference number)</i>
Government security classification Official:
Title of report: ECFRS Funding for Sprinklers Project
Area of County/Stakeholders affected: N/A
Report by : Mark Earwicker, Engineering and Enforcement Department - Technical Fire Safety Date of report: 23 October 2017 Enquiries to: Moira Bruin, Assistant Director of Prevention, Protection & Response

1. Purpose of report

To seek approval to continue to part fund the installation of sprinklers in high rise premises.

2. Recommendations

This paper seeks authority to continue allocating funding to support the retro-fitting of sprinklers working in partnership with Local Authorities, Housing Associations and Charities (and such non-profit organisations) in order make those at highest risk safer, in line with the Service's vision and Integrated Risk Management Plan. Approval is sought to allow for the balance of £371k to be used to support schemes whilst the business case to widen the scope and funding for high rise premises (Option 3) is brought forward.

3. Benefits and Costs of Proposal

In 2013, a project began to support the retro fitting of suppression in homes where the most vulnerable people live within Essex, an agreed sum of £250K per year for three years approved from the Authorities "spend to save reserve".

There are two key benefits to supporting the sprinkler initiatives. Firstly in supporting those most vulnerable to fire in having a safer home environment. But also the fitting of sprinklers supports the Service's strong Health and Safety culture in making some of the more challenging premises (High Rise or redesigned housing) safer for the Service's firefighters to enter in event of an incident.

4. Background and proposal

As a natural progression from installing smoke detectors in homes, the Service looked at encouraging the installation of Fire Suppression. In 2013, a project began to support the retro fitting of suppression in homes where the most vulnerable people live within Essex, an agreed sum of £250K per year for three years approved from the Authorities "spend to save reserve".

Local Authorities, Housing Associations and Charities (and such non-profit organisations) and those at highest risk are given priority access to the fund.

Factors that may indicate premises could be considered high risk include:

- Used to house children or vulnerable adults
- History of fires at the premises
- Used to house residents with limited mobility
- High-rise premises
- Existing problems in achieving fire safety
- Potential risk to firefighter safety

The project was and still, continues to be a great success.

Progress So Far

The report in Appendix A details the project from its inception in 2013 to the present day, but as a summary the sprinkler funding currently pledged will mean that ECFRS will have assisted in the provision of sprinkler systems in over 600 premises that are home to vulnerable persons and/or in premises that constitute significant risk to fire-fighters.

Future

Following the recent tragic fire in London enquires and applications have multiplied, resulting in applications pending a decision for:

- 1 High-rise (16 floor) student accommodation at the University of Essex, with a possible 5 more tower blocks to follow,
- 15 High-rise (12-16 floor) accommodation blocks in the Thurrock area,
- 5 three-storey properties housing vulnerable adults in the Southend area.

There is anticipation that more will follow.

Options and Analysis

This report seeks to establish the continued commitment to support the Sprinkler funding initiatives, and to establish future aspirations in the Service supporting future funding bids. There are three options; -

1. the Service stops supporting the Sprinkler Funding initiative, complete those initiatives where funds have been committed and continues to support the fitting of sprinklers, but without providing any financial commitment.
2. the Service continues to support the funding initiatives in line with current funding commitments
3. In addition to option 2, the Service provides a further business case in support of widening the scope and funding, in particular to support the funding of sprinklers in High Rise premises.

5. Strategic Priorities

The support for the installation of sprinklers is a key part of the Authority's Integrated Risk Management Plan.

6. Operational Implications

There has been no workforce engagement specific to this report. The fitting of sprinklers supports the Service's strong Health and Safety culture in making some of the more challenging premises (High Rise or redesigned housing) safer for the Service's firefighters to enter in event of an incident.

7. Financial Implications

Details of individual financial commitments made to date can be found in Appendix A. Also in Appendix A are pending/future projects. The original £750k of funding to support this initiative came from the spend to save reserve – an earmarked reserve. £371k of this money remains available.

8. Legal Implications

None specific to this report.

9. Staffing and other resource implications

There are no direct staffing implications. The funding requests are managed within existing resources of the Technical Fire Safety Team.

10. Equality and Diversity implications

Work in this area to date has positively impacted upon the most vulnerable within the Essex Communities. Further detail can be found in Appendix A.

11. Risks

The proposal is primarily designed to mitigate a community risk. In addition the proposal addresses a risk to firefighter safety, although that is not the prime reason for it.

12. Governance Boards



The proposal has been brought straight forward for decision.

13. Background papers

The original proposal was agreed by the Essex Fire Authority in September 2013 (Paper EFA/080/13).

Decision Process

Step 1A - Chief Fire Officer Comments

(The Chief Fire Officer is asked in their capacity as the Head of Paid Service to comment on the proposal.)

I support the proposal. It supports the
provisions in the Authority's IRMP
Hayfoblay 2/11/17

Step 1B - Consultation with representative bodies

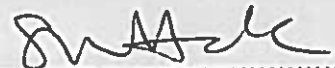
(The Chief Fire Officer is to set out the consultation that has been undertaken with the representative bodies)

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Step 2 - Statutory Officer Review

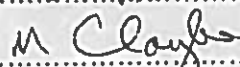
The report will be reviewed by the Essex Police Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority's ("the Commissioner") Monitoring Officer and Chief Financial Officer prior to review and sign off by the Commissioner or their Deputy.

Monitoring Officer

Sign: 

Print: S. Hancock

Chief Financial Officer

Sign: 

Print: M. CLAYTON

Step 3 - Publication

Is the report for publication? YES/~~NO~~

If 'NO', please give reasons for non-publication (state 'none' if applicable)

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If the report is not for publication, the Monitoring Officer will decide if and how the public can be informed of the decision.

Step 4 - Redaction

If the report is for publication, is redaction required:

- 1. Of Decision Sheet YES/NO
- 2. Of Appendix YES/NO

If 'YES', please provide details of required redaction:

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Date redaction carried out:

If redaction is required, the Chief Financial Officer or the Monitoring Officer are to sign off that redaction has been completed.

Sign:

Print:

Date signed:

Step 5 - Decision by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner or Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: *R.C.H.*

Print: *15/1/17 R.C.H.*

Date signed: *15/1/17*

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

Date signed: