



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: 121-2018
Government security classification (e.g. Not protectively marked/Official - Sensitive):
Title of report: Emergency Planning Reserves and Funds – Repayment to Essex County Council
Area of County/Stakeholders affected: Essex County Council
Report by : Glenn McGuinness – Acting Chief Finance Officer Date of report: 20 th August 2018 Enquiries to: Glenn McGuinness

1. Purpose of report

The Police Fire and Crime Commissioner is asked to approve the return of £559,836 of funds held on behalf of the County Council in respect of Emergency Planning and Resilience for the Schools Project and the Crisis Support Team.

2. Recommendations

That the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner approves the transfer of £559,836 of funds to Essex County Council which are currently held on their behalf.

3. Benefits and Costs of Proposal

The Fire and Rescue Authority is required to return reserves arising from budget underspend against funding provided by Essex County Council for Emergency Planning under the terms of the agreement held with them.

4. Background and proposal

Essex Fire Authority entered into an agreement to transfer the Emergency Planning function (including its staff and budget) from Essex County Council from 1st January 2012. Under this agreement the County Council provided funding for the Emergency Planning function on an annual basis of c. £550K. The Emergency Planning function transferred back to Essex County Council from 1st April 2018

Spend against budget was monitored against expenditure on a monthly basis by the budget holder (the Head of Emergency Planning). In addition the former Chief Fire Officer had regular meetings with the County Council which included reviews of the financial position.

There was underspend against budget for each year. Under the terms of the agreement the County Council had the right to ask for these to be repaid. No repayments were formerly requested or made since the arrangement commenced in 2012.

The balance held on behalf of the County Council in respect of Emergency Planning has been disclosed in the annual accounts of the Authority each year as a separate item under Earmarked Reserves. The balance held in respect of this is £469,853 at 31st March 2018.

In addition there are funds held on behalf of the County Council for the Schools Project (£36,141) and the Crisis Support Team (£53,842).

The total amount to be paid to Essex County Council is therefore £559,836.

5. Strategic Priorities

As the Emergency Planning function transferred back to the County Council from 1st April 2018 there are no strategic matters which would impact on the Fire and Rescue Plan 2020 to 2024, or the Integrated Risk Management Plan.

6. Operational Implications

None.

7. Financial Implications

The main financial implication is that our cash balances will reduce by £560k. This has been allowed for in the cash flow forecast of the Authority.

8. Legal Implications

This repayment is required in accordance with the agreement between Essex Fire Authority and the County Council.

9. Staffing and other resource implications

The staff previously employed by the Authority transferred back to the County Council from 1st April 2018.

10. Equality and Diversity implications

None

11. Risks

There would be a risk of legal action if the underspend was not repaid.

12. Governance Boards

The requirement to transfer these funds back to Essex County Council was discussed as part of a paper on the reserves position at the Performance and Resources Board on 30th July 2018, and it was agreed that a formal decision letter on this matter should be put to the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority.

13. Background papers (Attached)

Emergency Planning Partnership paper to Policy and Strategy Committee on 9th November 2011.

Latest Partnership Agreement 2017.

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.)

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Sign:

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:

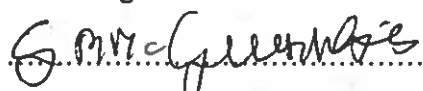


Print: David Lawson

Date: 31 August 2018

Chief Financial Officer

Sign:



Print:

G. P. McQUINN

Date:

11/9/2018

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: 

Print: R.C. Hirst

Date signed: 23/9/18

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

.....

Sign:

Print:

Date signed:

