

**ESSEX POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY**

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service

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| Meeting | **Performance & Resources Board** | Agenda Item | 8 |
| Meeting Date | 24th September 2018 | Report Number |  |
| Report Author: | ACFO IRMP and Service Improvement | | |
| Presented By | ACFO IRMP and Service Improvement | | |
| Subject | **Response Strategy** | | |
| Type of Report: | Information | | |

# Recommendations

1. Members of the board are asked to note the following contents of the report for information.

**BACKGROUND – Response Strategy**

1. The Essex County Fire & Rescue Service (ECFRS) Response Strategy had been ‘in draft’ for a considerable period of time. On every occasion when an opportunity occurred for publication, a change in our operating context or the potential for such change became evident and the publication of the Strategy was delayed. The latest change was the advent of the new Fire and Rescue Services Framework document.
2. The Response Strategy includes reference to the Policing and Crime Bill and the new FRS Framework document but does not include reference to the Fire and Rescue Services Plan as this does not come into effect until 2019.
3. ECFRS will be required to provide a suite of documents to HMICFRS as part of our inspection in 2019. A Response Strategy is one of the documents listed.
4. At the Service Leadership Team meeting 9th August 2018, the following recommendations were supported;-
   1. Agree to adopt the attached document as the ECFRS Response Strategy.
   2. The Response Strategy to be presented to the Performance and Resources board as an item for information.
   3. As the Response Strategy does not introduce new processes or procedures nor alter any existing agreements, it is presented to our Representative bodies for information only.
   4. The Response Strategy is subject to immediate review as part of the IRMP process.

# Benefits and Risk Implications

1. The Response Strategy supports the Service in exploiting Strategic Opportunity and mitigating corporate risk as follows;-
   1. *SRR150006 – Opportunity - Reacting in an agile way to changes in our environment* – By clearly defining the current response aspirations, the benefits and threats arsing from changes in our environemnt should be easier to identify and assess.
   2. *SRR150003 – Risk - loss of public confidence* – The public can use the Response Strategy to guide an assessment of how and to what extent the Service has delivered against its stated intetnions.
   3. *SRR15004 – Risks – Ineffective Governance leading to a failure to deliver the Essex Fire & Rescue Plan and/or PFCC Local Business Case* – The Response Strategy sets out the Governance arrangements for the response aspect of ECFRS service delivery arrangements
2. A response Strategy is one of a suite of documents that will be used by the HMICFRS to inform the Inspection of ECFRS in early 2019. The absence of such a key document is likey to impact negatively on the HMICFRS findings in relation to ECFRS and the subsequent inspection outcome.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

1. The Response Strategy includes reference to existing agreed activities, as a result, no additional financial implications have been identified which are attributable to the publication of the document.

# Equality and Diversity Implications

1. The Response Strategy includes reference to existing agreed activities, as a result, no additional equality and diversity implications have been identified which are attributable to the publication of the document.

# Workforce Engagement

1. The workforce have been engaged with a range of subjects that are referenced within the document, but have not been directly involved in the formulation of the document itself.
2. The representative bodies have not been involved to this point but it is recommended that they are provided with sight of this document (see recommendation c)
3. The OPFCC has not been involved to this point but it is recommended that a copy of the document is presented to Performnace and Resources board as an information item (see recommendation b)

# Legal Implications

1. The Response Strategy includes reference to existing agreed activities, as a result, no additional legal implications have been identified which are attributable to the publication of the document.