

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

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service

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| Meeting | **STRATEGIC BOARD** | Agenda Item | 7 |
| Meeting Date | 8 June 2018 | Report Number | **2** |
| Report Author: | Charles Thomas |
| Presented By | Dave Bill |
| Subject | **Strategic Assessment of Risk Report** |
| Type of Report: | Consider |

# Recommendations

1. That the Strategic Board review the Strategic Assessment of Risk prior to submission to the Chief Fire Officer and Commissioner for approval.

# BACKGROUND

1. The Strategic Assessment of Risk, (SAOR), has been in existence for a number of years. The SAOR strives to provide a high-level overview of the foreseeable risks that Essex Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS) faces. The most recent iterations have underpinned the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP). The SAOR is necessarily not a short read, nor is it intended to be a “cover-to-cover” read. Using the index, managers should identify specific areas of interest, draw on the SAOR content, and research more deeply as required from other resources.
2. The aim of the SAOR is to identify the potential risks and existing issues, (e.g. population clusters, risk areas in general, and demographics), that could require fire and rescue service intervention. The intervention could be in the form of prevention or protection activity to reduce the likelihood of the risk materialising and as such the occasions at which a response is required. The intervention could also entail an operational response from ECFRS, either alone, or as part of multi-agency arrangements. Concurrent incident management may also be required at a large scale.

**OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS.**

1. There are changes in each edition required to meet new needs or match new data. For example, publication of a new National Framework, revised population figures from the Office of National Statistics, (ONS), and road casualty statistics from the “Safer Essex Roads Partnership”. In addition to references available through the ONS, use is made of strategic source documents from, e.g. Essex County Council. Other data is obtained by researching publicly available information, such as housing requirements from local authority planning web pages.
2. There is no specific date for the publication of each edition of the SAOR. Statistical updates used in the SAOR occur in April, June, September and October. Arguably one of the most significant data sets, the Mid – Year population estimates for the year previous, is published by the ONS at the end of June. It is suggested that if a fixed time for publication is to be selected, whilst narrative and observations may require approval/authorisation, matters of fact can be amended as data sets are published, supported by with Information Reports to the appropriate /approving/ authorising Committees/Boards.

# Benefits and Risk Implications

1. As stated, the SAOR is a high-level overview of risks. The intent is that Department managers should consider the points below in relation to their use of the SAOR:
* Informing the Strategic Risk Register
* Gap analysis and the identification of possible improvements to capabilities
* Likely future demands or reduction in demands on the service
* The preparation of the IRMP
* The preparation of operational and procedural documents
* Better informed business planning processes
* Pointers for better engagement with key partners
1. The SAOR has a partial risk register at the end of chapters, with a full risk register at its Annex B. The identified risks, of which there are 11, are cross-referenced to the Essex Resilience Forum Community Risk Register.

# Financial Implications

1. None at this stage.

# Equality and Diversity Implications

1. None at this stage.

# Workforce Engagement

1. The Corporate Risk and Business Continuity Manager is the author and researcher for the SAOR. Colleagues from across the Service provide annual updates, e.g. Chapter 2 Base Case and Chapter 5 Transport Infrastructure.

# Legal Implications

1. The National Framework for Fire and Rescue Service’s has been revised in May 2018; Fire and Rescue Authorities must have regard to the framework in carrying out their duties. The SAOR sets out ECFRS foreseeable risks in order to inform its IRMP.
2. More specifically it address two priorities in the Framework (2017;p5), namely; -
* make appropriate provision for fire prevention and protection activities and response to fire and rescue related incidents;
* identify and assess the full range of foreseeable fire and rescue related risks their areas face;