

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

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service

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| Meeting | **Strategic Board** | Agenda Item | 10 |
| Meeting Date | 7 March 2019 | Report Number |  |
| Report Author: | Terry Jewell, UKISAR Team Leader |
| Presented By | Terry Jewell |
| Subject | **Essex FRS, UKISAR** |
| Type of Report: | For information only |

# Recommendations

1. Members of the Board are asked to note the contents of the report:

# BACKGROUND

1. In 1992 the UK government asked the UK FRS to look into the feasibility of establishing a team that could respond to international requests for assistance to disasters such as earthquakes.
2. In the 1993 the team went live, consisting of fifteen FRS’s, including Essex. All teams are made up of serving operational fire fighters and were the pre-cursor of the now national USAR capability. It forms part of the global United Nations system for better coordination of response to large, sudden onset disasters. The team falls under the remit of the Department for International Development (DFiD).
3. Since its formation, the national team has deployed on more than twenty occasions, Essex being part of the team on six of these. The national team, including Essex, has also been involved with the UN policy which looks to strengthen host nation capability phase with capacity building programs in disaster prone countries.
4. When deployed, the team operate under full UK FRS Command & Control structures as well as UK H&S legislation.

# ONGOING COMMITMENT

1. Since the inception of the national USAR capability, all UKISAR personnel are drawn from USAR based staff. This has the benefit of allowing maintenance of competencies within business as usual as UKISAR can be viewed as USAR in the international environment.

1. There are however, some specialist areas and qualifications that are unique to the UKISAR team and as such, support is required from host FRS in allowing personnel to attend courses and other training events. These include safety & security and hostile environment courses and the teams mandatory annual consolidation exercise.

# Benefits and Risk Implications

1. Personnel experience a considerable variety of complex and difficult incidents within a wide range of cultures and environments. They also benefit from working alongside professional partners from other countries. The team are able to bring back these experiences and integrate them into local communities and work streams where applicable. For example, USAR hosted a local Nepalese community following their return from the Nepal earthquake and provided an engagement opportunity for the Community Fire Safety team.
2. Risks for the team are as per any large scale incident. With the international relevance and where they are likely to deploy, mitigating measures include a comprehensive vaccination requirement, courses on cultural awareness, and specific safety and security courses.

# Financial Implications

1. There are currently no financial implications for the Authority. Competencies are maintained through the Service’s USAR capabilty as almost all map across to the UKISAR team. Expenditure such as vaccinations are covered by an annual grant from DFiD and any deployments are also covered whereby DFiD refund the cost on a salary / role based structure. (1 x Watch Manager, 5 x FF)

# Equality and Diversity Implications

1. None.

# Workforce Engagement

1. The Service currently has 15 personnel who make up the team. These are based at the USAR Station as well as three flexi duty officers.

# Legal ImplicationS

1. None.

# Health & Safety Implications

1. None.