

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

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service

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| Meeting | **Strategic Board** | Agenda Item |  |
| Meeting Date | 17 September 2019 | Report Number |  |
| Report Author: | Emily Cheyne, Head of Corporate Communications | | |
| Presented By | Rick Hylton, Deputy Chief Fire Officer | | |
| Subject | **Annual Report and Statement of Assurance** | | |
| Type of Report: | Discussion | | |

# Recommendations

Members of the strategic board are asked to consider the draft Annual Report and Statement of Assurance, prior to submission to the Police, Fire and Crime Panel.

# BACKGROUND

The Fire and Rescue National Framework sets out the priorities and objectives for fire and rescue authorities in connection with the discharge of their functions. Every Fire and Rescue Authority must publish an annual statement of assurance of compliance with the Framework.

For PCC FRAs such as Essex, this statement is subject to scrutiny by the Police, Fire and Crime Panel and is called the ‘Fire and Rescue Statement’.

The statement should outline the way in which the authority and its fire and rescue service has had regard – in the period covered by the document – to this National Framework, the Integrated Risk Management Plan and to any strategic plan prepared by the authority for that period. The authority must also provide assurance to their community and to government on financial, governance and operational matters.

The Annual Report and Statement of Assurance should be of sufficient detail and clarity for a member of the public or an elected representative to see how the Service has performed against is strategy.

The key sign-off points for the Statement are:

* PFCC Strategic Board – 17 September
* Police Fire and Crime Panel – 24 October (PFCC will either include or respond to any comments)
* Police Fire and Crime Panel - 5 December

The majority of the content for the Fire and Rescue Statement has been sourced from existing reports, documents, and reports to minimise the impact on colleagues.

Areas still requiring attention:

* Infographics. Infographics will be used to summarise some of the key data for 2018/19.
* Final design

# Benefits and Risk Implications

None

# Financial Implications

None. The design work has been managed in-house with the corporate communications team.

# Equality and Diversity Implications

None

# Workforce Engagement

None

# Legal ImplicationS

There is a requirement set out in the Fire and Rescue National Framework for Police and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authorities to produce an annual Fire and Rescue Statement.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

None specific to this report