

ESSEX POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY
Essex County Fire & Rescue Service



Meeting	Service Leadership Team	Agenda Item	5 (c)
Meeting Date	12 November 2019	Report Number	19-266
Report Author:	ACFO Moira Bruin, Director of Operations		
Presented By	ACFO Moira Bruin, Director of Operations		
Subject	Grenfell Inquiry Phase 1 Report – Planned Service Response		
Type of Report:	Information and decision		

RECOMMENDATIONS

SLT is asked to approve the proposed Service approach to the Grenfell Inquiry Phase 1 report.

BACKGROUND

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS) is committed to keeping the residents of Essex safe and to being a learning organisation.

The Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry Phase 1 Report was officially released on 31 October 2019. The report focused on the response phase of the Grenfell Tower incident on 14 June 2017, in particular the response of the London Fire Brigade (LFB), and contains a number of recommendations.

All the recommendations need to be carefully considered by ECFRS against current procedures and practices as a matter of priority, with the aim of providing assurance and/or identifying where action must be taken to mitigate risk to the organisation and the residents of Essex.

PROPOSED APPROACH

The Director of Operations has formed a working group which met on 6 November 2019, to consider all the recommendations within the report. The working group has identified that the recommendations can be broadly classified into those that:

- Apply directly to all Fire and Rescue Service (FRSs) and therefore directly to ECFRS.
- Apply to LFB and therefore should be considered vicariously to ECFRS.
- Apply to other organisations/sectors - but which will have a future impact on ECFRS (for example, where local partners are required to take action and will look to ECFRS for advice on implementation or where ECFRS needs to receive, process and hold information from other partners).

All recommendations have been nominated a senior owner at Assistant Director/Area Manager level, who will ensure that each recommendation will be analysed by relevant parts of the business to determine to what degree:

- The Service can provide assurance (and evidence) against the recommendation within ECFRS (RAG rating: Green).
- The Service can provide only partial assurance that no gap exists and action should be taken by ECFRS to improve this (RAG rating: Amber).
- The Service has identified a gap and therefore the potential for operational or organisational risk and action must be taken by ECFRS as a priority (RAG rating: Red).

The working group will re-convene on 26 November 2019, and will work to prioritise and determine owners, interdependencies, likely timescales and resourcing. The outcome of which will form the basis of a high level action plan which will be brought to SLT for approval in December 2019.

BENEFITS AND RISK IMPLICATION

This paper proposes a piece of work which seeks to provide an assessment of the degree of assurance we can provide or the degree of risk (gap) when the Grenfell Inquiry phase 1 recommendations are considered from an ECFRS perspective.

The findings and actions will be tracked as control measures with actions through strategic risk SRR150010 and will feature in some directorate risk registers.

SRR150010: 'There is a risk that the Service fails to, or is unable to, implement appropriately the learning from local/national incidents, audit reports, case studies, changes/interpretation to law/regulations in an effective and timely way.'

Other strategic risks which are relevant are SRR150014, SRR150015, SRR150020, and SRR150017.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Post Grenfell Inquiry Phase 2, there is an anticipated financial impact due to increased resourcing, training and technical fire safety activity.

Post Grenfell Inquiry, the Local Government Association (LGA) and National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) anticipate new burdens around this area of Fire and Rescue Service delivery, although it is as yet unclear if this will affect FRS funding (LGA position statement 2018).

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

None directly associated with this paper.

WORKFORCE ENGAGEMENT

Ongoing workforce communications and engagement are taking place with our workforce around the Grenfell Inquiry.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Changes to Fire safety legislation are anticipated following Grenfell Inquiry Phase 2. ECFRS Protection Strategy (currently in draft) will be reviewed to take this into account at the appropriate time. Item 5g on the SLT agenda for 12 November 2019, is the draft 2020-24 Protection Strategy.

HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 identifies our obligation to continually assess risks. The proposed piece of work seeks to identify any gaps in our approach to the management of operational risk in relation to high rise residential fire procedures and ultimately to contribute to the health and safety of Responders and residents of high rise residential buildings.