



Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority

Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 031-20

Government security classification Not protectively marked

Title of report: Annual Report and Statement of Assurance

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide

Report by: Darren Horsman & Emily Cheyne

Date of report: 5.11.2020

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- 1. Purpose of the report**

To gain the PFCC's approval of the publication of the Annual Report and Statement of Assurance 2019-2020.
- 2. Recommendations**

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner approve for publication the final version of the Annual Report and Statement of Assurance 2019-2020.
- 3. Benefits of the proposal**

The publication of the Annual Report and Statement of Assurance 2019-2020 provides valuable public information about the performance of the Service over the financial year. It ensures that performance data and information is in the public domain and has been scrutinised by the Police, Fire and Crime Panel. The publication also ensures the PFCC complies with their statutory obligation to produce a Statement of Assurance and Annual Report.
- 4. Background and proposal**

The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England 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 of Assurance'.

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

The document attached at Annex A includes further information to help our communities understand the work undertaken and the performance achieved by the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service during 2019-2020.

The report presented to the Police, Fire and Crime Panel today is a draft. The Panel can endorse this version or provide feedback. If the Panel provides feedback a further final version will be shared with the Panel before publication.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

A variety of presentational options were considered, and the current format was used following careful consideration of what would be most accessible and transparent for the public and previous feedback from the Police, Fire and Crime Panel.

6. Strategic priorities

This document reports on the progress of the Service against their statutory obligations and the priorities set out within the Fire and Rescue Plan and Integrated Risk Management Plan.

7. Operational implications

The publication of this report has no direct operational implications.

8. Financial implications

This decision has no direct financial implications.

9. Legal implications

The decision will ensure the PFCC FRA complies with their legal obligations as set out above.

10. Staffing implications

This decision has no direct staffing implications.

11. Equality and Diversity implications

The document has been designed and written to be accessible.

12. Risks

There are no risks associated with this decision.

13. Governance Boards

The report has been to the Senior Leadership Team, Strategic Board and Police, Fire and Crime Panel as set out in legislation and within the PFCC FRA's constitution.

14. Background papers



Annex A 20201013
ECFRS Annual Repo

Decision Process

Step 1A - Chief Fire Officer Comments

(The Chief Fire Officer is asked in their capacity as the Head of Paid Service to comment on the proposal.)

I support the publication of the Plan and Statement.

Sign:

Date: 16 November 2020

Step 1B – Consultation with representative bodies

(The Chief Fire Officer is to set out the consultation that has been undertaken with the representative bodies)

There is no requirement to consult with the Rep bodies as this is a business requirement

Step 2 - Statutory Officer Review

The report will be reviewed by the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority's ("the Commissioner's") Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer prior to review and sign off by the Commissioner or their Deputy.

Deputy Monitoring Officer

Sign:

Print: Darren Horsman

Date: 23 November 2020

Chief Finance Officer

Sign: ...

Print: Neil Cross

Date: 19 November 2020.

Step 3 - Publication

Is the report for publication? YES/NO

If 'NO', please give reasons for non-publication (Where relevant, cite the security classification of the document(s). State 'none' if applicable)

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If the report is not for publication, the Monitoring Officer will decide if and how the public can be informed of the decision.

Step 4 - Redaction

If the report is for publication, is redaction required:

1 Of Decision Sheet YES/NO

2 Of Appendix YES/NO

If 'YES', please provide details of required redaction:

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Date redaction carried out:

If redaction is required, the Chief Finance Officer or the Monitoring Officer are to sign off that redaction has been completed.

Sign:

Print:

Date signed:

Step 5 - Decision by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner or Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign:  (PFCC)

Print: Roger Hirst

Date signed: 27 November 2020

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign: (PFCC / DPFCC)

Print:

Date signed: