



Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority

## Decision Report

**Please ensure all sections below are completed**

<b>Report reference number:</b> 029-20 <b>Government security classification:</b> Official
<b>Title of report:</b> Prevention Strategy
<b>Area of county / stakeholders affected:</b> Countywide
<b>Report by:</b> AM J. Palmer <b>Date of report:</b> 05/11/2020 <b>Enquiries to:</b> AM J. Palmer

### 1. Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to set out the reasons the strategy is required and to enable the PFCC to approve the Prevention Strategy for Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS).

### 2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the PFCC approves the attached strategy as the Prevention Strategy for Essex County Fire and Rescue Service.

### 3. Benefits of the proposal

The benefits of this proposal are:

- The strategy gives the organisation a direction of travel for the prevention function
- It enables the service to meet its statutory responsibilities
- It enables the service to track performance against pre-determined measures and give assurance to the PFCC that the service is effectively discharging its statutory responsibility and mitigating risk to the community effectively.
- It highlights the mechanism by which risk will be identified and the frequency of review and updating.
- It satisfies a concern raised by HMICFRS that the service did not have an effective prevention strategy.

- It provides a vision and future platform to expand and improve the prevention function and the outcomes for the public.

The risks of not approving this proposal are:

- The organisation is left vulnerable to a poor inspection rating next year
- The organisation is unable to clearly define how it will meet its statutory requirements

#### **4. Background and proposal**

Following the HMICFRS inspection it was identified that ECFRS didn't have an effective prevention strategy. This meant that as an organisation we were not able to demonstrate our strategic intent or highlight how we would effectively prioritise resources to meet the objectives of the Fire and Rescue Plan and our Integrated Risk Management Plan. The action plan to respond to the HMICFRS findings (which specifically included the development and the bringing of a prevention strategy to Strategic Board) was agreed at Strategic Board on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

The strategy now being brought to Strategic Board clearly outlines how ECFRS will discharge its statutory function. It highlights the types of activities that will be carried out and the relevant members of staff who will carry out that work. This strategy has been developed to identify future areas of activity and to develop a direction of travel with partners and other agencies. It also clearly sets out how we will utilise data to develop a Risk Model that will enable us to identify those most vulnerable and how we will deploy resources to mitigate those vulnerabilities.

#### **5. Alternative options considered and rejected**

There were no alternative options considered as part of this paper.

#### **6. Strategic priorities**

**This strategy is relevant to the following strategic priorities as outlined in the Fire and Rescue Plan.**

- Prevention, Protection and Response
- Collaborate with our partners
- Make best use of our resources
- Develop and broaden the roles and range of activities undertaken by the service
- Be transparent, open and accessible.
- Improve Safety on our Roads.

#### **7. Operational implications**

The representative bodies have been engaged in the production of this strategy. There are no operational implications to this strategy. It details how operational staff will carry out Prevention work in line with role maps, but this work will be carried out alongside their response function and will not detract from the service's ability to respond to incidents.

#### **8. Financial implications**

The strategy outlines the current structure of the function. This is within current agreed budgetary limits. There will be a review of the prevention function staffing in-order to meet the demands of this strategy any financial implications will be developed as part of a business case

and consultation of this restructure. There is no additional cost to operational staff carrying our prevention activity in line with the strategy and the competency framework.

## **9. Legal implications**

No specific legal advice was received in the production of this report.

## **10. Staffing implications**

There are currently no staffing implications to this paper, as highlighted area a full restructure of the prevention department is on-going in line with the delivery of this strategy, but a separate business case will be submitted.

## **11. Equality and Diversity implications**

The Prevention Strategy explicitly addresses the increased level of vulnerability experienced by different sections of our communities. By addressing this vulnerability, the Strategy proactively supports the Service's compliance with its statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010. In particular its duty to have due regard to **advance equality of opportunity** between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't and foster or **encourage good relations** between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The Prevention Strategy has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment carried out by the Head of Prevention and the Service Equality, Diversity and Inclusion officer- included for reference.

## **12. Risks**

The key risk in this paper would arise if the strategy does not get approved. This would leave the organisation at risk of the implications outlined in section 3 of this paper.

The other risk within the paper is that our Representative Bodies (RBs) do not support operational staff carrying out all aspects of the work to support the strategy. This has been mitigated in the following ways:

- Regular meetings with the RBs at which they have agreed the approach

## **13. Governance Boards**

This proposal has been discussed and approved at SLT prior to being presented to the Commissioner at the Strategic Board

## **14. Background papers**

Prevention Strategy.


<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/wp-content/uploads/essex-county-fire-and-rescue-service-report-2018-19.pdf>

**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 this recommendation

Sign: 

Date: ...11 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)

.....Document has been shared all four rep bodies' and risk mitigation included

**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.

Monitoring Officer

Sign: .....

Print: .....

Date: .....

Chief Finance Officer

Sign:  .....

Print: .....Neil Cross.....

Date: ..... 11 November 2020 .....

**Step 3 - Publication**

Is the report for publication?      **YES**

**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 / DPFCC)

Print: .....

Date signed: .....

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

.....  
.....

Sign: ..... (PFCC / DPFCC)

Print: .....

Date signed: .....