



Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority

Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 034-21

Government security classification: Not Applicable

Title of report: Essex County Fire and Rescue Service- Response Strategy

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Greater Essex, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS)

Report by: Neil Fenwick

Date of report: 5 May 2021

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1. Purpose of the report

To seek approval from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) for the attached Response Strategy. If the strategy is approved a delivery plan will be developed to implement and embed the document within the Service and there will follow a review of the links to the Response Strategy within the Strategic Assessment of Risk (SAOR) and the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP).

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the PFCC notes the approach to managing the response to emergencies set out in these papers and approves the Response Strategy.

3. Benefits of the proposal

The response Strategy is an important step in delivering the Integrated Risk Management Plan and supporting the delivery of the Fire and Rescue Plan. The Response Strategy will directly deliver the following elements of the IRMP:

- Ensure our response standards are appropriate for each area of the county.
- Meet our response standards.

- Ensure we have the right appliances, people, and equipment in the right places to mitigate risk across the county and ensure resources are available when needed by our communities.
- Improve availability of our On Call appliances.
- Deliver training to crews on specialist appliances to ensure availability when needed by our communities.

The consequences of not proceeding this Strategy would be to delay certain workstreams within the Fire and Rescue Plan and the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP).

4. Background and proposal

The Fire & Rescue Plan sets out a clear set of priorities for the Service and an important part of this is an effective level of protection, prevention and response. The Integrated Risk Management Plan was developed in 2019-2020 to operationalise these priorities and response is an important element within this plan. The Response Strategy sets out how Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS) will be prepared to respond within the communities of Essex when required. This will mean that operational personnel may have to work in stressful and often dynamic operational environments, which at times will include exposure to dangerous and potentially unpredictable situations when attempting to resolve incidents. The 2016 / 20 Response Strategy detailed how ECFRS would deliver against the previous plans and Integrated Risk Management Plan 2016-20 (IRMP) to reduce the impact of an emergency within Essex, however the new strategy will be required to not only enable the service to effectively resolve emergency situations but also adapt to the changing political, environmental, and societal impacts that are facing Essex and therefore ECFRS.

For Response, risk governs everything that we respond and work too, which includes but is not limited to our people, property, appliances, and training. But although the legislation that the service aligns to is structured and rigid, the risks within the county are forever changing and therefore there needs to be some flexibility with the Response delivery. In addition to how we have historically responded to incidents we must also respond to a range of evolving incident types that could (in the case of flooding or terrorism) involve multiple resources for an extended period of time therefore the strategy will highlight areas of planned development of teams, roles and activities to address this.

In the development of the service's Response Strategy, we have:

- Acknowledged that our response to risk must be in the best interests of the community and the Service.
- Consider where appropriate the legislative documents that sculpt our service and the activities that we deliver, the Fire and Rescue Plan and IRMP will direct the strategy whilst the Strategic Assessment of Risk will underpin the content.
- We have worked alongside internal teams to ensure that the plans and activities are aligned across the Service. Inter-dependencies have been considered e.g. the Prevention Strategy, National Occupational Guidance, People Strategy, and Digital and Data Strategy.
- The Strategy must acknowledge the benchmarks and critical success factors that are / will be in place, The Strategy showcases our intention to progress and not just maintain the status quo.
- The document will be owned by the Director of Operations and it will be a strategic document, but our aim is that the strategy is acknowledged and utilised by our teams who will understand where their role is within the service and the objectives that we are working to achieve.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

The Service has a statutory requirement to respond to incidents. One option was to retain and refresh the existing Strategy which allowed ECFRS to meet such legislative requirements. The Strategy presented here allows for a more flexible and innovative approach to meeting response standards.

6. Strategic priorities

The Strategic priorities set out in the Fire and Rescue Plan are:

- Prevention, protection and response
- Improving safety on our roads
- Helping vulnerable people to stay safe
- Promoting a positive culture in the workplace
- Developing and broadening the roles and range of activities we carry out
- Being honest, open and accessible
- Working together with our partners
- Making the best use of our resources

7. Operational implications

We have ensured that stakeholders have had the opportunity to contribute through workshops and requests for feedback. All opportunities have been taken to maximise the input from operational officers, department heads, representative bodies, and members of SLT to ensure that potential operational implications are anticipated and managed. The operational implications arising from the adoption of this strategy are anticipated to be positive, increasing efficiency and effectiveness of our Response.

8. Financial implications

The content of the Strategy sits within existing financial budgets and established resources.

9. Legal implications

There are a number of legislative documents that require the service to respond to emergencies within a broad spectrum of type and size in an effective and safe manner, these documents include but are not limited to:

The Fire and Rescue Services Act (2004)
Fire and Rescue Service (Emergencies) (England) Order (2007)
The FRS National Framework for England (2018)
Civil Contingencies Act 2004

In addition, the Policing and Crime Act (2017) part 1, places a duty on police, fire and rescue and ambulance services to collaborate. This strategy will enable the exploration of opportunities to collaborate with emergency service and other partners to support the effective delivery of this strategy.

10. Staffing implications

The content of this Strategy aligns to current staffing levels with no additional implications at this time, noting that this Strategy is about the systems and not the personnel responding to incidents.

11. Equality and Diversity implications

This decision is not anticipated to have an impact on any of the following protected groups as defined within the Equality Act 2010:

Race	No	Religion or belief	No
Sex	No	Gender reassignment	No
Age	No	Pregnancy & maternity	No
Disability	No	Marriage and Civil Partnership	No
Sexual orientation	No		

12. Risks

If the Strategy is not approved by the PFCC this will create a delay in the implementation of a delivery plan to support the delivery of elements within the Fire and Rescue Plan and IRMP.

There are unknown risks regarding future financial budgets and inter-dependencies at National level e.g.: the review of National Resilience assets in 2023/2024.

If the Strategy is approved, there will follow a review of the links to the Response Strategy within the Strategic Assessment of Risk (SAOR) and the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP).

13. Governance Boards

- ECFRS Service Leadership Team meeting 11 May 2021
- Strategic Board 15 June 2021

14. Background papers

- The Fire and Rescue Services Act (2004)
- Fire and Rescue Service (Emergencies) (England) Order (2007)
- The FRS National Framework for England (2018)
- Civil Contingencies Act 2004
- Health and Safety at Work Act (HSWA) 1974
- The Fire and Rescue Plan.
- The Integrated Risk Management Plan 2020-24.
- The ECFRS Annual Plan 2021.
- The Strategic Assessment of Risk.
- The Prevention Strategy.
- The Protection Strategy.

Decision Process (034-21)

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 16/6/21

Step 1B – Consultation with representative bodies

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

.....feedback sought from all rep bodies on the document.....

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: Darren Horsman - Deputy MO

Date: 26.6.2021

Chief Finance Officer

Sign: 

Print:Neil F Cross.....

Date: . 16/6/21

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 **NO**
- 2 Of Appendix **NO**

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

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Date redaction carried out:

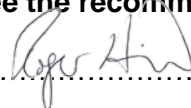
If redaction is required, the Chief Finance Officer or the Monitoring Officer are to sign off that redaction has been completed.

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: ROGER HIRST

Date signed: 28 June 2021