



Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority

Decision Report

Report reference number: 029 – 22

Government security classification: Not protectively marked

Title of report: Annual Approval of the Strategic Assessment of Risk (SAoR)

Area of county / stakeholders affected: All

Report by: Moira Bruin, Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Date of report: 29/9/2022

Enquiries to: Helen O'Sullivan, Risk Lead

1. Purpose of the report

To seek approval of the new Strategic Assessment of Risk (SAoR) and consequent review of the service's Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP).

2. Recommendations

To approve the revised SAoR and approve the recommendation that, taking all changes into account (which are not material at this time), no amendments to the service's current IRMP are required.

3. Benefits of the proposal

The IRMP, supported by the SAoR, provides a risk-assessed model which drives the service's core strategy documents in order to ensure that resources are used in the most effective way to mitigate the risks to the public of Essex and deliver the priorities of the Fire and Rescue Plan. The SAoR and covering paper containing the recommendations were presented to the Strategic Board on 08/06/2022 as agenda item 10.

4. Background and proposal

Each year, the service formally reviews the IRMP, highlighting the need for any updates following a full review of the service's SAoR. The SAoR has been reviewed, as required, as set out in the Fire and Rescue National Framework (2018, p.9) which states:

'Fire and rescue authorities are expected to assess their existing capacity and identify any gaps as part of the integrated risk management planning process'

Any gaps identified by the SAoR are then considered within the context of the IRMP, with a recommendation where necessary for a change or addition to the service's current IRMP. The reviewed SAoR is included at appendix A for the approval of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

If the reviewed Strategic Assessment of Risk is not approved, an alternative form of risk assessment would have to be considered, which would have to be compliant with the National Framework. At this time, it is considered best to use the preferred option, which represents current best practice.

The next iteration of the IRMP will be a Community Risk Management Plan and will be in line with the new National Fire Standards which have been developed as part of the 'Fit for the Future' consultations.

6. Strategic priorities

The SAoR underpins the IRMP process. The SAoR is a foundation document which provides the basis of the service complying with the requirements of the National Fire and Rescue Framework for England (May 2018).

7. Operational implications

A greater understanding of operational risks will contribute to the service's understanding of risk management at the tactical and operational levels. The SAoR is a live document which is updated as required. The service's Response Strategy exists as a control towards the risks identified.

8. Financial implications

Delivery of the IRMP arising from the SAoR is aligned to the service's Medium Term Financial Plan, with additional funding requirements subject to normal business case procedures.

9. Legal implications

The SAoR is a foundation document which provides the basis of the service complying with the requirements of the National Fire and Rescue Framework (2018).

10. Staffing implications

There are no staffing implications related directly to this decision.

11. Equality and Diversity implications

The SAoR helps identify the more vulnerable people within Essex, in order for the service to consider inequalities of service provision or other impacts.

We have considered whether individuals with protected characteristics will be disadvantaged as a consequence of the actions being taken. Due regard has also been given to whether there is impact on each 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		

The Core Code of Ethics Fire Standard has been fully considered and incorporated into the proposals outlined in this paper.

12. Risks

The SAoR is a risk assessment at the strategic level.

13. Governance Boards

Service Leadership Team Meeting 17-05-2022

Strategic Board 08-06-2022

14. Background papers

Appendix A – Strategic Assessment of Risk 2022/23

Decision Process 029-22

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.)

Recommendation supported

Sign: 

Date: 30/9/22

Step 1B – Consultation with representative bodies

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

.....A copy of the new SAoR has been shared with all representative bodies

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: P. Brent-Isherwood

Date: 28 October 2022

Chief Finance Officer

Sign: 

Date: 30/9/22

Neil Cross

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)

None

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:

N/A

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 1st November 2022

I do not agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: (PFCC / DPFCC)

Print: