



Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority

Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 013-22

Government security classification: Not protectively marked

Title of report: Essex Data Declaration

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Service wide

Report by: Rick Hylton, Chief Fire Officer

Date of report: 10 March 2022

Enquiries to: Rick Hylton

1. Purpose of the report

To seek approval from the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex County Fire and Rescue Service to sign up to the Essex Data Declaration (Appendix A), following full review and consultation with Essex Chief Executives Association (ECEA).

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Commissioner approves the proposal to sign up to the Essex Data Declaration to enable ECFRS to implement and commence obtaining benefit from the agreement.

3. Benefits of the proposal

The Essex Data Declaration will enable the increased use of data and analytics across the Essex Public Sector. Data held has been identified as a key asset and can generate value when shared and accessed across the sector. Full benefits are contained in the introduction to the Declaration.

4. Background and proposal

The proposal was drafted and discussed by ECEA as a demonstration of their commitment to making full use of data and analytics and to create a positive culture and environment for sharing data. This has been identified as having the potential for creating better outcomes across the Essex public sector shared arena.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

Option 1: Do nothing

If ECFRS do not sign up to the Data Declaration, there is the potential that the service will miss out on the recognised benefits contained in the Declaration. This would also have the potential to inhibit collaborative working across the county.

Option 2: To sign up to the Essex Data Declaration

Signing up to the Declaration will enable access to all shared data and analytics and encourage collaborative working across the sector. This will be vastly beneficial for ECFRS activities linked to working in the community and for Safeguarding and SERP.

6. Strategic priorities

As set out in the Fire and Rescue Plan:

- Promoting a positive culture in the workplace
- Be transparent, open, and accessible
- Make best use of our resources

7. Operational implications

It is envisaged this will have positive operational implications as it should enable enhanced and easier access to shared data.

8. Financial implications

There are no immediate financial implications associated with this decision.

9. Legal implications

As an organisation we recognise the importance of using data responsibly, complying with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA). This ensures that all data is managed and utilised responsibly, fairly, and securely and that appropriate mechanisms are in place for data protection and information asset control and management. The ECFRS Data Protection Policy and statement detail how the organisation protects all data sets and how we meet the requirements of the DPA. Both are available via the ECFRS website.

The decision to sign up to the Essex Data Declaration is endorsed by the Senior Information Responsible Officer (SIRO) following consultation with all parties during the drafting of the declaration. As an organisation we have already been utilising the basis for this agreement working with the partner organisations and have demonstrable benefits to evidence the positive contribution this working approach will deliver.

10. Staffing implications

There are no staffing implications associated with this decision.

11. Equality and Diversity implications

We have considered whether individuals with protected characteristics will be disadvantaged because 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	x	Religion or belief	x
Sex	x	Gender reassignment	x
Age	x	Pregnancy & maternity	x
Disability	x	Marriage and Civil Partnership	x
Sexual orientation	x		

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

12. Risks

This policy supports the risk profile for:

SRR150008: There is a risk that the Service is unable to effectively mobilise or communicate with our response resources and partner agencies.

SRR150009: There is a risk of Data breach due to failure/lack of Data Protection Act (2018) compliance leading to personal loss, reputational damage or a loss of public confidence and legal action.

The ECFRS Data Protection Policy already sets out how risks associated with Data Handling will be managed and mitigated. Any new data shared as a result of the Essex Data Declaration will be managed according with this policy with Data Protection Impact Assessments undertaken where appropriate.

13. Governance Boards

None required, however, the Essex Data Declaration was discussed between the Chief Fire Officer and the PFCC at a formal 1-2-1 on the 7th of March 2022.

14. Background papers

None.

Decision Process (013-22)

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.)

.....I support this recommendation.....



Sign: ...

Date: ...14/3/22.....

Step 1B – Consultation with representative bodies

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

This is business decision and therefore no consultation has been undertaken.

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: .11.4.2022.....

Chief Finance Officer

Sign: 

Print:Neil Cross.....

Date: ... 14/3/22

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)

.....

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:

.....
.....

Date redaction carried out:

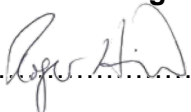
If redaction is required, the Chief Finance Officer or the Monitoring Officer are to sign off that redaction has been completed.

Sign: Print:

Date signed:

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

I agree /do not agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: .....PFCC

Print: .Roger Hirst..... Date signed: 20th April 2022