



Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority

Decision Report

Report reference number: 008-23

Government security classification: Not protectively marked

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

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Service-wide

Report by: Helen O'Sullivan, Risk Lead

Date of report: 14/06/2023

Enquiries to: Helen O'Sullivan, Risk Lead

1. Purpose of the report

This paper is a re-submission of the proposed Risk Strategy following its consideration by the Strategic Board on 8th March 2023. Following the feedback from the Strategic Board, the appropriate additions have been made in order to gain the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's (PFCC's) approval for the publication of the Risk Strategy. The amendments are to be found within the 'Risk Appetite' section of the Strategy.

2. Recommendations

The PFCC is asked to approve the updated Risk Management Strategy.

3. Benefits of the proposal

The benefit of an agreed approach to risk management is to create clear and consistent information on how risk should be managed. By identifying, assessing, and managing risk across the whole organisation we will:

- Reduce variability of outcomes.
- Prevent and mitigate hazards.
- Take advantage of opportunities.
- Comply with relevant rules and regulations.

The strategy clearly identifies the reasons why risk management is needed and whose responsibility it is within the service at all levels. It delivers against the Fire and Rescue Plan objectives and our service priorities whilst explaining clearly what our staff, volunteers, the public and other stakeholders can expect from us.

4. Background and proposal

Risk management should be integral for any public sector organisation that operates with transparency and accountability. For the service, the methodology and principles that create our risk framework enable us to demonstrate risk based, effective, efficient, and financially stable delivery of the service's activities to maximise public safety outcomes within communities.

Whilst risk management itself does not deliver good outcomes effective management is a critical component of good governance. Good governance helps to build trust and confidence in internal and community-based service delivery. High-quality information enables better conversations about risks to successfully deliver and helps the service to focus on actions that will make a difference.

Risk management is a key component of our obligations under several legislative areas, including the Corporate Governance Code which states that the role of boards is "to provide...leadership of the company within a framework of prudent and effective controls which enables risk to be assessed and managed," and the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (2018) which requires fire and rescue services to identify and assess the full range of foreseeable fire and rescue related risks their areas face. This strategy has been developed to overarch the risk framework and associated guidance and will support the progress of the Risk Group that is being established.

The performance and assurance activities across the service will require a high level of organisational change but they will in turn align with good practice principles for risk management across the service.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

A strategy on a page was considered but it was felt at this time that the strategy should be more in-depth to support a greater understanding of risk management and build a foundation for service improvements. A strategy on a page will be developed once the content is approved to support the promotion of the strategy. The document will be designed in line with our brand style guide.

6. Strategic priorities

The Risk Management Strategy supports the delivery of all strategic priorities by setting out the way in which the service manages risk.

7. Operational implications

The Risk Management Strategy is based on globally accepted risk management standards and best practise. Consulted standards include ISO3100:2019, the Institute of Risk Management and the Orange Book.

The Area Manager of Assurance and Deputy Chief Fire Officer have been consulted to ensure that the Risk Management Strategy aligns to policies and procedures already in place including but not limited to the Assurance Strategy.

8. Financial implications

None directly associated with this report.

9. Legal implications

This decision will ensure the PFCC FRA complies with their legal obligations as set out above, including within the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England 2018.

10. Staffing implications

The content of this strategy has no direct staffing implications.

11. Equality and Diversity implications

The actions being taken will not have a disproportionate impact on individuals with protected characteristics (as defined within the Equality Act 2010), when compared to all other individuals and will not disadvantage people with protected characteristics.

Race	N	Religion or belief	N
Sex	N	Gender reassignment	N
Age	N	Pregnancy & maternity	N
Disability	N	Marriage and Civil Partnership	N
Sexual orientation	N		

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

12. Risks

There are no risks associated with this decision.

13. Governance Boards

Strategic Board – 8 March and 8 June 2023

14. Background papers

All documents used in the development of this strategy are readily available to the public.

Decision Process (08-23)

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:.....13/6/23.....


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 document has been created by the Risk Lead, and not in consultation with the Representative bodies. However the paper has been circulated to all stakeholder groups.

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: 30 June 2023

Chief Finance Officer Sign: 
Print:Neil Cross.....
Date: ... 13/6/23

Step 3 - Publication

Is the report for publication? **YES**

