



**Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority**

**Decision Report**

**Report reference number:** 039-23

**Government security classification:** Not protectively marked

**Title of report:** Health and Safety Annual Statement of Intent 2023/24

**Area of county / stakeholders affected:** County and Service wide

**Report by:** Moira Bruin, Deputy Chief Fire Officer

**Date of report:** 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023

**Enquiries to:** Moira Bruin, Deputy Chief Fire Officer

**1. Purpose of the report**

To request that the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) agrees and signs the 2023/24 Health and Safety (H&S) Annual Statement of Intent appended to this report.

**2. Recommendations**

That the PFCC signs the attached statement ready for publication by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and Essex County Fire and Rescue Service.

**3. Benefits of the proposal**

That ECFRS can be seen to be adhering to its legal and statutory obligations with regard to health and safety, and that the PFCC and ECFRS publicly reaffirm their commitment to their health and safety priorities for the year.

**4. Background and proposal**

This statement is produced and agreed on an annual basis in order that the ongoing corporate commitment to health and safety is formally ratified. There have been no changes made from the last agreed statement apart from the change in Chief Fire Officer / Chief Executive to Rick Hylton.

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

There were no other options considered as this is part of an annual process and there are no other viable options. Non-publication and agreement to this statement would lessen the public's faith in the commitment of the PFCC and the Service to keeping all colleagues and the wider community safe.

## **6. Strategic priorities**

The Health and Safety Statement of Intent aligns to the Fire and Rescue Plan and the Service's Annual Plan, with reference to the priorities 'Promote a positive culture in the workplace' and 'Being transparent, open and accessible'.

## **7. Operational implications**

There are no operational implications associated with this report or the publication of the attached statement. All representative bodies are kept informed of health and safety activities and issues via agreed processes during each annual period and are invited to attend the service's Health, Safety and Welfare Strategic Group.

## **8. Financial implications**

There are no financial implications associated with this report or with the publication of the statement.

## **9. Legal implications**

Regulation 2 (3) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 requires employers to prepare, and maintain up to date, a statement showing the policy on the health and safety of its employees, and the organisation and arrangements put in place to ensure the general policy is carried out. The employer must ensure that all employees are aware of the policy and any revision made to it.

## **10. Staffing implications**

None directly linked to the statement.

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

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	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**

Regulation 5 (Health and Safety arrangements) of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations puts a legal requirement on every employer to make and put in place appropriate

health and safety arrangements. Section 3 clarifies that every employer shall carry out a risk assessment of any risks to the health and safety of employees or other persons.

**13. Governance Boards**

Not applicable. The statement is produced annually.

**14. Background papers**

Health and Safety Annual Statement of Intent 2023/24

**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.)

.....  
.....

Sign:



Date: 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023

**Step 1B – Consultation with representative bodies**

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

None required, however, as noted in the decision report, the rep bodies are kept informed of all ongoing H&S activities and processes.

**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: 22 September 2023

Chief Finance Officer

Sign:



Print: Neil Cross

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023

**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 | <b>NO</b> |
| 2 | Of Appendix       | <b>NO</b> |

**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:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Hirst', written in a cursive style.

Sign:

(PFCC)

Print: ROGER HIRST

Date signed: 28/09/2023