

**Agenda Item 5**  
**Reference number: EPFCP/25/22**

<b>Report title: Essex County Fire and Rescue Service Annual Report and Statement of Assurance 2021-2022</b>	
<b>Report to:</b> Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel	
<b>Report author:</b> Roger Hirst (Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority)	
<b>Date:</b> 29 September 2022	<b>For:</b> Review
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<b>County Divisions affected:</b> All Essex	

### **1. Purpose of report**

This report provides the Panel with the draft Essex County Fire and Rescue Service Annual Report and Statement of Assurance 2021-2022. The draft report is attached at Annex A.

The Police, Fire and Crime Panel has a statutory duty to review and provide feedback on the draft report.

### **2. Recommendation**

That Panel members note the draft report and either agree this version or provide comment on the content.

### **3. Overview**

The Fire and Rescue National Framework sets out the priorities and objectives for fire and rescue authorities in connection with the discharge of their functions. Every Fire and Rescue Authority must publish an annual statement of assurance of compliance with the Framework.

For PFCCFRAs such as Essex, this statement is subject to scrutiny by the Police, Fire and Crime Panel and is called the 'Fire and Rescue Statement of Assurance'.

The statement outlines the way in which the authority and its fire and rescue service has had regard – in the period covered by the document – to the National Framework, the Integrated Risk Management Plan and to any strategic plan

prepared by the Authority for that period. In the case of this report, this includes the Fire and Rescue Plan 2019-2024. The authority must also provide assurance to their community and to government on financial, governance and operational matters.

This document includes further information to help our communities understand the work undertaken by the fire and rescue service and its performance during 2021-2022. Following feedback from the Police, Fire and Crime Panel in their October 2021 meeting, this year a workshop was established for the Panel to see an early draft of the document and provide feedback. The table below shows the feedback provided by the Panel and the response from the Commissioner.

<b>Page number</b>	<b>Suggested change</b>	<b>Comment / action</b>
Page 2	Financial Years to be specified either with month or footnote.	Added into first introductory paragraph
Page 2	"Improve our service to you" – add "the people of Essex."	Done
Page 4	The sign off by the PFCC should be widened to include their position as the EPFCCFRA	Done
Page 5	Move "Our Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner is Roger Hirst" to be the second paragraph. Specifically reference that the plan is produced and agreed with the CFO.	Done
Page 8	Update photo of the Commissioner.	Done
Page 11	Change CFO to Chief Fire Officer  Rick Hylton by name not mentioned until page 13. Should indicate when he was appointed.	Done
Page 17	Update map – too busy. Spell out USAR. Be clearer on reasons for colours being used	Done
Page 24	Headline - remove the phrase "near perfect"	Changed
Page 32	Change photo position	Done

Page 42	Add reference on photo	Done
Page 48	ERF – clarify who this includes	Linked to ERF website
Page 49	Spell out USAR	Done

The report presented to the Police, Fire and Crime Panel today is a draft, but does already incorporate feedback from the Panel. The Panel can either agree this version or provide additional feedback. If the Panel provides feedback, a further, final version will be shared with the Panel prior to publication.

#### **4. Appendices**

Annex A – DRAFT ECFRS Annual Report and Statement of Assurance 2021-2022