

AGENDA ITEM 4

Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel	EPCP/27/18
Date: 6 December 2018	

Report title: Fire and Rescue Plan development update

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1. Purpose of report

This report provides the panel with an update on the development of the Fire and Rescue Plan.

2. Recommendation

That panel members note the update.

3. Overview

Within the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's (PFCC) statutory responsibilities is the requirement to publish a Fire and Rescue Plan that sets out the priorities and objectives for Essex County Fire and Rescue Service.

A working group was established to develop the Plan. This is chaired by the Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and includes the Chief Fire Officer, and officers from the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, and Essex Fire and Rescue Service.

A subgroup of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel (Panel) has also been established, chaired by Cllr Maddocks.

Engagement

Significant engagement has been undertaken to date with stakeholders, partners and staff. This engagement started with the development of seven draft priorities which were further refined in light of the feedback received by the OPFCC Senior Management Team, ECFRS Service Leadership Team and the ECFRS Managers' Meeting.

Hearing from partners

These refined draft priorities have been discussed with the Leaders, Chief Executives or senior representatives from all District, Borough, Unitary and County Councils in Essex. All Members of Parliament representing Essex constituencies were also invited to a specific workshop to discuss the priorities.

Partner workshops were attended over the summer by over 100 representatives from a wide range of organisations including Community Safety Partnership Managers, councillors, mayors, voluntary organisations, disability support organisations, multi-agency partnerships such as the Safer Essex Roads Partnership and other interested groups.

Specific engagement was undertaken with young people through the Young Essex Assembly, while a range of 1-2-1 engagement discussions was held with key stakeholders including the East of England Ambulance Service and Essex Police.

Hearing from ECFRS staff

Representative bodies have been included throughout the process and staff have been encouraged to participate and provide feedback through regular promotion on ECFRS communication channels and through team workshops held by managers, as well as a series of Your Voice workshops held across the county.

Working with the Police, Fire and Crime Panel

Following a workshop with all members of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel a decision was taken by the Panel to establish a smaller subgroup to provide ongoing engagement through the development of the Plan. This has met on a number of occasions and continues to provide a valuable contribution to the development of the plan.

Public Survey

All feedback received so far has been recorded, sorted and has fed into the revision of the priorities. These were shared with representative bodies and staff at Essex County Fire and Rescue Service prior to the public survey being launched by the Commissioner on 20th November.

This has been promoted through a range of media activity, including a public phone in with BBC Essex, social media promotion and promotion through local Borough, District and Unitary Councils.

This survey will run until 15th January and continue to be supported by regular promotional activity.

4. Next steps:

The results from the survey will be considered as the draft Plan is developed. This will be discussed with the Panel Subgroup prior to the Plan being brought back to the full Panel. This is currently scheduled for the meeting on 7 February 2019.