

# Essex Fire Authority

## Report to the Constituent Authorities of the meeting held on 18 June 2014

### 1. MEMBERSHIP OF ESSEX FIRE AUTHORITY AND DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS.

#### Conservative Group:

Councillor Graham Butland  
Councillor Jenny Chandler  
Councillor Maggie McEwen  
Councillor Lady Patricia Newton  
Councillor Colin Seagers  
Councillor John Spence  
Councillor Andy Wood

Councillor Paul Honeywood  
Councillor John Knapman  
Councillor Carlo Guglielmi  
Councillor A M Hedley  
Councillor Ann Holland (Southend)  
Councillor Tom Kelly (Thurrock)

#### Labour Group:

Councillor Michael Danvers  
Councillor Ivan Henderson  
Councillor Cathy Kent (Thurrock)

#### Liberal Democrat Group:

Councillor Barry Aspinell  
Councillor Anne Turrell  
Councillor Peter Wexham (Southend)

#### UKIP Group:

Councillor Alan Bayley  
Councillor Andrew Erskine  
Councillor Kerry Smith  
Councillor James Moyies (Southend)

#### Green Group:

Councillor Michael Hoy

#### Independent Group:

Councillor Pierre Oxley

The 25 elected Members for the Fire Authority comprise 13 Conservative Councillors, 3 Labour Councillors, 3 Liberal Democrat Councillors, 4 UKIP Councillors, 1 Green Party Councillor and 1 Independent Councillor.

## Chairman

Councillor A M Hedley

## Vice-Chairman

Councillor A Holland

## Group Spokespersons:

Labour Group Spokesperson – Councillor C Kent

Liberal Democrat Group Spokesperson – Councillor Barry Aspinell

UKIP Spokesperson – Councillor Kerry Smith

Green Spokesperson – Councillor Michael Hoy

Independent Spokesperson – Councillor Pierre Oxley

## POLICY AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Constitution: 10 Members – 5 Conservative Members, 1 Labour Member, 1 Liberal Democrat Member, 2 UKIP Members, 1 Independent or Green Member.

<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat</b>	<b>UKIP</b>	<b>Independent/Green</b>
<b>Chandler</b>	<b>Kent</b>	<b>Turrell</b>	<b>Smith</b>	<b>Oxley</b>
<b>Hedley</b>			<b>Moyies</b>	
<b>Holland</b>				
<b>Newton</b>				
<b>Spence</b>				

Chairman – Councillor A M Hedley

Vice-Chairman – to be appointed at the meeting on 25 June 2014

## AUDIT, GOVERNANCE & REVIEW COMMITTEE

Constitution: 15 Members – 8 Conservative Members, 2 Labour Members, 2 Liberal Democrat Members, 2 UKIP Members, 1 Independent or Green Member.

Members of the Authority that do not form part of the Policy & Strategy Committee.

<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat</b>	<b>UKIP</b>	<b>Independent/Green</b>
<b>Butland</b>	<b>Danvers</b>	<b>Aspinell</b>	<b>Bayley</b>	<b>Hoy</b>
<b>Guglielmi</b>	<b>Henderson</b>	<b>Wexham</b>	<b>Erskine</b>	
<b>Honeywood</b>				
<b>McEwen</b>				
<b>Kelly</b>				
<b>Knapman</b>				

<b>Seagers</b>				
<b>Wood</b>				

Chairman – To be appointed at the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

Vice Chairman – To be appointed at the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

### **JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEE WITH ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL**

Constitution - A Member to be appointed from each of the constituent authorities

<b>Essex County Council</b>	<b>Councillor Guglielmi</b>
<b>Thurrock Council</b>	<b>To be confirmed</b>
<b>Southend Borough Council</b>	<b>Councillor Peter Wexham</b>

### **EFA (TRADING) LTD**

Membership – 5 Members

<b>EFA Directors (Type A)</b>	<b>Officers (Type B)</b>
<b>Councillor Knapman</b>	<b>Deputy Chief Fire Officer Adam Eckley</b>
<b>Councillor Holland</b>	<b>Lindsey Stafford-Scott, Director of HR &amp; OD</b>
<b>Councillor Wexham</b>	<b>Alternates:</b>
<b>Councillor Guglielmi</b>	<b>Peter Warner, Fleet Manager</b>
<b>Councillor M Danvers</b>	<b>SDO Training &amp; Performance</b>

Meetings will take place on the rise of the Essex Fire Authority Meeting

### **Lead Members**

<b>Safer Communities Champion</b>	Councillor Jenny Chandler
<b>Equal Opportunities Champion</b>	Councillor Cathy Kent
<b>Health and Safety Champion &amp; Risk Management Champion</b>	Councillor Peter Wexham
<b>Risk Management Champion</b>	Councillor Ann Holland
<b>IT and Data Management Champion</b>	Councillor Andy Wood
<b>Retained Duty System Champion</b>	Councillor Carlo Guglielmi
<b>Environmental Champion</b>	Councillor Maggie McEwen
<b>Control Relocation Champion</b>	Councillor A M Hedley

### **The Essex Fire Authority's nominee to the Essex Pension Fund Board**

Councillor Colin Seagers
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### **PROPOSED DATES FOR ESSEX FIRE AUTHORITY, POLICY & STRATEGY COMMITTEE, AND AUDIT, GOVERNANCE & REVIEW COMMITTEE**

<b>Fire Authority (at 10:00 hours unless otherwise annotated)</b>
3 September 2014
3 December 2014
11 February 2015

15 April 2015
10 June 2015

<b>Policy &amp; Strategy Committee (at 10:00 hours unless otherwise annotated)</b>
24 September 2014
5 November 2014
14 January 2015
18 March 2015
24 June 2015

<b>Audit, Governance &amp; Review Committee (at 14:00 hours unless otherwise annotated)</b>
8 October 2014
21 January 2015
22 April 2015
15 July 2015

## 2. OPERATIONAL INCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS OF NOTABLE INTEREST.

For the period 31 October 2013 to 31 March 2014 Essex County Fire and Rescue Service has attended 6295 incidents compared with 6382 for the same period last year. Primary fires are continuing to reduce from 1728 to 1650 and there was also a slight decrease in secondary fires with 511 attended compared to 519 for the same period last year.

Special Service incidents have increased from 1812 to 1935. The majority of special service incidents continue to be road traffic collisions (RTCs).

False alarms continue to reduce with the number of false alarms due to apparatus attended declining from 1229 from the previous year to 1139 from October 2013 to March 2014.

<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>
<b>Fires</b>	1728	1650
<b>Special Services</b>	1812	1935
<b>False Alarms</b>	2842	2710
<b>Total</b>	<b>6382</b>	<b>6295</b>

### **Fires**

#### **Primary Fires**

Dwelling	476	443
Other building	213	195
Vehicle	338	358
Other	68	57

#### **Secondary Fires**

<b>Chimney Fires</b>	114	86
<b>Total</b>	<b>1728</b>	<b>1650</b>

### **Special Services**

RTC	624	606
Flooding	234	245
Making Safe (not RTC)	68	188
Effecting entry	190	173
Lift Release	195	172
No action (not false alarm)	38	74
Other rescue	50	60
Assist other agencies	55	57
Removal of objects from people	54	59
Spills and Leaks (not RTC)	60	64
Rescue or evacuation from water	48	36
Animal assistance incidents	79	43
Hazardous Materials incident	38	30
Stand By	8	28
Other Transport incident	19	25
Advice Only	12	21
Removal of people from objects	12	19
Medical Incident - First responder	4	14
Suicide	10	9
Evacuation (no fire)	9	9
Medical Incident - Co-responder	5	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1812</b>	<b>1935</b>

#### **False Alarms**

False alarm due to apparatus	1229	1139
False alarm good intent	1503	1484
Malicious false alarm	110	87
<b>Total</b>	<b>2842</b>	<b>2710</b>

#### **Definition of “Primary Fire”:**

This group of fires includes those occurring in buildings fit for occupation; caravans; non-derelict vehicles; outdoor storage, plant and machinery; agricultural and forestry premises and property; outdoor structures such as post-boxes, tunnels, bridges etc. If a fire would normally be defined as a secondary fire and also involves casualties, rescues or escapes; spread from one secondary fire location to another; or is attended by five or more appliances where either the fire fighters, appliances or equipment were employed in fighting the fire, the definition changes to a primary fire.

#### **Definition of “Secondary Fire”:**

A fire confined to single derelict buildings, single trees, refuse containers, attended by four or fewer appliances and which did not involve casualties, rescues or escapes.

#### **Definition of “Emergency Special Service”:**

Incidents including RTC’s, extrications, lift rescues, lock in’s/out’s, Hazardous Materials or Chemicals (Hazchem), ladder/ALP rescues, water rescues and any other incident not falling into the previous categories with confirmed fatalities, casualties or rescues or first aid rendered by Service personnel.

### **Recent Incidents of Notable Interest**

**House Explosion, Cloes Lane, Clacton**

**05/02/2014; Time of Call 08:27**

**Incident Number: 1980**

**In attendance: 1 x Clacton, 1 x Weeley, 1 x Colchester, 1 x USAR**

A huge blast destroyed two houses, badly damaged a third and sent a shower of debris across a 50-metre radius over neighbouring roads and properties in Cloes Lane, Clacton. The incident happened at 08:28hrs on Wednesday morning of 5 February 2014.

Following the explosion, a man and a woman were pulled from the rubble suffering with severe injuries, eight other people, were rushed to hospital with injuries sustained in the fire. A total of 19 houses were evacuated because of damage from the blast.

The Service's USAR team attended the incident with rescue dog Darcy and handler searching the rubble to ensure no one else was trapped. The Service joined colleagues from Essex Police, the Health and Safety Executive and National Grid in an investigation to establish the cause of the blast.

This incident attracted much media interest, with television and print news teams anxious to get details of the incident, with three news helicopters circled overhead. News of the explosion featured prominently on 24 hour news channels both in the UK and abroad.



## **Sprinklers Avert major Blaze at Eastgate Shopping Centre, Basildon**

**05/02/2014; Time of Call: 23:35**

**Incident Number: 2024**

**In attendance: 2 x Basildon, 2 x Orsett, 1 x Grays (aerial ladder platform)**

A major fire in the Eastgate Shopping Centre in Basildon was averted thanks to sprinklers which activated, suppressing the flames and preventing the fire from spreading. The fire started when there were few people around and it is most likely that had the sprinkler system not been fitted the fire would have developed. A developed fire would have affected a large part of the building and would have caused significant damage.

The fire came in the middle of National Sprinkler Week and gave the Service an excellent opportunity to promote the benefits of sprinklers.

The fire broke out in a unit used as a local radio station and when crews arrived they discovered that the suppression system had activated to contain and largely extinguish the fire.

The Fire Authority agreed to put aside £250k in 2014/15 to match fund sprinkler initiatives in high risk premises to promote exactly this outcome. The first group of premises has been identified and systems are already being fitted.

- Parkside tower – A 15 storey residential tower block containing 53 flats
- Mornington House – A four storey block of flats containing fifty flats
- Bockingham Green - The application is to fit a water mist system into the premises affected by last July's fire, the project will include one townhouse and four flats
- Brook House – This is a grade 2 listed tower block in the centre of Basildon, 15 storeys high containing 84 flats



# Derelict Building Alight

Saturday April 12

Butt Road, Colchester

Incident Number: 6108

In attendance: 3 x Colchester, 1 x West Mersea, 1 x Tiptree, 1 x Coggeshall, 1 x Tollesbury

Crews tackled a large fire in the former Colchester Barracks Sergeants' Mess. The Service was called shortly after midnight. Around 30 people from nearby homes were evacuated as a result of this incident. Assistant Divisional Officer Paul Gardner said:

*"When we arrived we were faced with a well-developed fire raging in the ground floor of the building. Using the Aerial Ladder Platform to get water on the fire from above we managed to stop it half way along the ground floor and save a large part of the building."*

Crews remained on site for nearly 12 hours, with revisits taking place throughout the Saturday afternoon. An investigation was not able to determine the cause of the fire.

**MESS INFERNO**

Flames gut listed building on ex-Army site  
Residents forced to flee thick smoke

A HISTORIC listed building has been plunged in a dramatic blaze through the night. The fire, which started in the ground floor, spread rapidly to the roof and gutters, forcing residents to flee. Thick smoke filled the area, and firefighters worked for hours to contain the blaze. The building, known as the Sergeants' Mess, is a Grade II listed building. The fire was extinguished by 05:00 on Saturday morning. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

**IT WAS INCREDIBLE** There was a huge following of orange and flames and soldiers going...

**BATTLING THE BLAZE** Fire crews were called to the scene at 11:30pm. The fire was well advanced by the time they arrived. Firefighters used an aerial ladder platform to get water on the fire from above. The fire was extinguished by 05:00 on Saturday morning. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

**Essex estate agents feel the London ripple effect - Page 4**

**EAST ANGLIAN**  
DAILY TIMES Your daily Essex newspaper

**Garrison inferno**  
MP's security concerns over historic building - Page 4

**INSIDE TODAY**  
Fuel offer 3p off/litre Page 12  
Hats off to the Iron Play-offs in sight Page 53  
U's fears eased by win  
Naze deal gets go ahead Page 12

**A FANTASTIC FAMILY DAY OUT!**  
SUFFOLK'S LARGEST GARDEN LAYOUT SHOW  
SUFFOLK SHOWGROUND  
Trinity Park Ipswich, IP3 8UH

**Daily Gazette**  
MONDAY APRIL 14, 2014  
gazette-news.co.uk 65p

**INFERNO AT GARRISON**

PEOPLE FLEE AS BLAZE GUTS PARTS OF HISTORIC SERGEANTS' MESS: P4&5

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**Gazette** Monday April 14, 2014

**SERGEANTS' MESS**

Blazing inferno - the flames devouring the roof of the Sergeants' Mess from a firefighter drenching down the charred remains of the roof

**The hall was full of smoke...like you'd see on TV**

£200,000 RAISED BY PUBLIC TO SET UP MUSEUM IN MESS



### **Tidal surge December 2013**

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December severe weather warnings were issued for strong winds and a medium likelihood of significant coastal flooding impacts along much of the east coast of England on the following two days. Throughout the 4<sup>th</sup>, whilst the most severe weather was expected to subside, the predicted risk of coastal flooding increased for the East and South East coast of England. This was due to a combination of high tides, strong winds, big waves and a storm surge. The coastal surge along the East Coast of England was predicted to be the worst for more than 60 years.

On this basis, Essex Resilience Forum met regularly to closely monitor the situation taking into account Met Office and the Environment Agency predictions, which included over 20 severe flood warnings along the Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk coast. The Service also established its own Critical Incident Team at Kelvedon Park.

Based on the intelligence provided, a decision was made early on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December to evacuate residents from Jaywick, near Clacton, to a local school. A Strategic Co-ordinating Group was established at Police Headquarters, and a 'Silver' cell established to manage the evacuation. At Jaywick, the Service's flood subject matter advisors worked with other agencies and fire crews to help in the evacuation throughout Thursday. Detailed work was also completed on flood mitigation and rescue plans.

With predictions getting worse throughout the 5<sup>th</sup>, and more areas being identified and having the potential to flood, the Service pre-deployed its internal water management resources to Dovercourt, Clacton, Maldon and Southend. A mutual aid request was supported nationally with Essex receiving additional resources of; -

- 4 x Type B Boat Teams (Gloucestershire, H&W, 2 x Severn Area Rescue Association);
- 2 x HVP (Gloucestershire, Royal Berks); and
- 2 x Flood Response SMA (West Sussex, Gloucestershire).

Following the surge affecting counties in more northern parts of the coast line earlier in the evening of the 5<sup>th</sup>, it was recognised that earlier predictions could have underestimated the potential of the flooding, and further information provided suggested a significant number of residents in the Maldon area may be affected. In total the Service deployed over 14 appliances in preparation of needing to evacuate the Maldon residents and make rescues if required.

Thankfully, by the time the tidal surge came along the Essex coast line, it did not coincide with high tide and therefore Service was required to respond to small, isolated incidents with higher water level predictions not being realised. However the debrief has identified that Service planning worked well, though amendments will be made to current plans based on learning points identified.

### **National Flood Response 2014**

With consecutively wet months throughout England from November 2013 onwards, in February 2014 England saw its most resource intensive deployment of National resources yet with crews,

appliances and specialist equipment being provided throughout the UK through mutual aid arrangements. The most notable areas receiving assets being; -

- Wheal Jane Mine, Cornwall;
- Kenley Water Treatment Works, Croydon, London;
- Royal Berkshire;
- Buckinghamshire;
- Kent;
- Devon & Somerset;
- Surrey;
- Oxfordshire; and
- Hampshire.

With many of these being large-scale deployments lasting many days, the majority of National Resilience assets were either actively deployed or sent to strategic holding areas. Crews, equipment and appliances used were a range of Flood Rescue Teams, Tactical Advisors, High Volume Pumps and Enhanced Logistical Support Officers.

The Service proved support over a five day period through crews at Leigh and USAR, using their specialist skills in water search and rescue. Providing our HVP, boats and appliances to support other services, the Service also provided tactical (Flood and Water Management) Support Officers to help in the command and control, and provide specialist advice to receiving Service officers.

This was also a time when the Service had its own challenges; the pictures below are from the 7<sup>th</sup> of February when heavy rains brought major flooding to the County, with Essex crews attending more than 70 incidents throughout the day.

Crews pumped water from flooded homes and rescued motorists trapped in flood water. The areas affected were in the North West of the County with firefighters attending incidents in Saffron Walden, Newport, and Stansted areas.

Most notably, crews rescued 10 people and a dog from a three storey block of flats in Saffron Walden and pumped out Lower Street, Stansted, which was hit by major flooding.



**Councillor Anthony Hedley**  
**Chairman**