

**AGENDA ITEM – 5**  
**Report EPFCP/19/21**

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| <b>Report title:</b><br>Essex County Fire and Rescue Service Annual Report and Statement of Assurance 2020-2021                                                                                                 |                    |
| <b>Report to:</b> Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel                                                                                                                                                            |                    |
| <b>Report author:</b><br>Roger Hirst (Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority)                                                                                                            |                    |
| <b>Date:</b> 21 October 2021                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>For:</b> Review |
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| <b>County Divisions affected:</b> All Essex                                                                                                                                                                     |                    |

**1. Purpose of report**

This report provides the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel with the draft Essex County Fire and Rescue Service Annual Report and Statement of Assurance 2020-2021. The draft report is attached at Appendix 1.

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

**2. Recommendation**

That Panel members review the draft Annual Report and Statement of Assurance 2020-2021 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 Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authorities (PFCCFRAs) such as Essex, this statement is subject to scrutiny by the Police, Fire and Crime Panel and is called the 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 statement, 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.

The document presented to the Panel also includes further information to help our communities understand the work undertaken by the fire and rescue service and its performance during 2020-2021. Following feedback from the Authority's Audit Committee, this year's version also includes a short section setting out at a high level the governance arrangements in place within the Authority. This summarises the content of the Annual Governance Statement.

The document presented to the Police, Fire and Crime Panel today is a draft. The Panel can either agree this version or provide feedback on it. If the Panel provides feedback, a further final version will be shared with the Panel prior to publication.

#### **4. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – DRAFT ECFRS Annual Report and Statement of Assurance 2020-2021