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Report Authors	Emily Cheyne - Assistant Director		
Presented By	Moira Bruin - Project Sponsor		
Subject	Community Risk Management Plan – progress report		
Type of Report	Information		
PFCC Action Point No.		For Publication	Yes

RECOMMENDATIONS

For noting.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update regarding the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) project.

This report outlines the project workstreams, engagement/ consultation plan and the timeline of work and activities. It also provides headlines/ themes to date to note.

This report includes the following appendices:

1.	Appendix 1a	Workstreams: Operational response
	Appendix 1b	Workstreams: Prevention
	Appendix 1c	Workstreams: Protection
2.	Appendix 2	Strategic Assessment of Risk (SAOR) review
3.	Appendix 3	Engagement and Consultation plan
4.	Appendix 4	Public Perception Survey
5.	Appendix 5	Timeline of activities

In May 2023, we started work with an external data analysis and scenario modelling company. Alongside this, the CRMP project team led workshops with departments and directorates across the Service. This approach supports a comprehensive and forward-looking assessment of the political, economic, social, technological, environmental, legal, and organisational (PESTELO) factors, which align to the CRMP Fire Standard best practice.

The CRMP process comprises three themes. These have been live and running throughout the life cycle of this project.

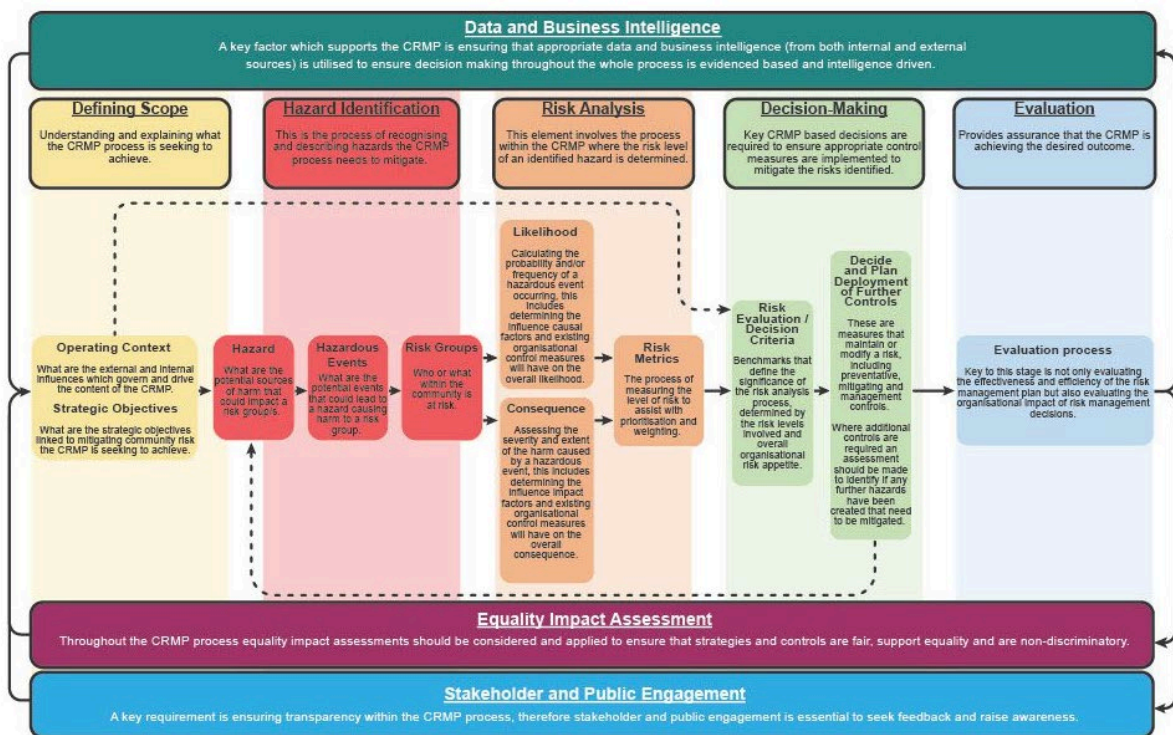
- Data and Business Intelligence
- Equality Impact Assessment
- Stakeholder and Public Engagement

Alongside this, we have followed the main components of the Fire Standard:

- Defining Scope
- Hazard identification
- Risk Analysis
- Decision-Making
- Evaluation

We are currently at the risk analysis stage **and** the decision-making stage. We are deep diving (through work streams) to explore, understand and present options that would mean risks are mitigated, future risks are identified and considered, we provide best value for money, and that our resources (people, vehicles, sites, equipment) are used efficiently and effectively.

Community Risk Management Planning Strategic Framework



1. Project Workstreams

As part of the research, data analysis and review against current strategies and the Strategic Assessment of Risk (SAOR), workstreams have been designed and developed to enable more focused tasks and work.

All workstreams consider the independencies with other workstreams. This is mapped out through a dependency mapping exercise.

Operational Response

See Appendix 1a

The Operational Response work package has been developed to ensure that the new CRMP allows ECFRS to deploy its resources based on Community Risk and in line with legislative and governance requirements.

The work with Process Evolution and Operational Research in Health Ltd (ORH) to provide analytical support, reviewing our operational response and demand model has been completed.

The team worked with the data analysis companies to review and model several scenarios to enable further planning of the operational workstream. Process Evolution and ORH were provided ECFRS data from the last 5.5 years.

Headlines:

- Stations are broadly where they should be*
- Some fire stations could close with no impact to first attendance*
- Some second appliances could be removed and there would be no impact on first attendance*
- The highest number of appliances deployed at once in the last 5.5 years was 34 in total. This was during the summer of 2022.
- The data indicates the issue between demand and supply. Our availability is lowest when demand is highest.

*** This is modelled on operational risk and demand only. It does not take into consideration community needs, prevention, and other risks.**

The workstreams review ECFRS current operational response resources and consider if and how this can be improved. The objective is to ensure that the Service is making best use of its available resources and funding, and to provide evidence-based assurance to all stakeholders that it is providing the most effective and efficient service across Essex. This includes responding to both current and emerging risks.

Prevention

Appendix 1b – Prevention workstreams

Appendix 1b – Severity model

The Prevention work package was developed to ensure that the CRMP meets its legislative, framework and governance requirements linked to Community Risk Management.

Key focus for this work package:

- Improve our understanding of our communities, and community risk.
- Improve the effectiveness in preventing fires and incidents.
- Develop data models that will drive understanding, activities, and evaluation.
- Work with key partners to understand hotspots of vulnerabilities and risky behaviours (including deliberate fires)
- Understand future risk – changing communities, emerging trends.
- Work with Operational Response to understand where we can't meet response standards, and how we prevent incidents from occurring in those areas.

Headlines – from data analysis, strategy review and risk review

- Definition of vulnerability needs further exploration to align to societal change.
- Micro journeying – set to increase. Are the risks behavioural or societal vulnerability?
- Flooding data indicated this is a known risk that will increase.
- Health factors increase someone's chances of being seriously injured in a dwelling fire. Data sharing agreements need to be unlocked.

Protection

Apx 1c – Protection work package

Apx 1c – ORH analysis by risks groupings (Dec 2023)

Apx 1c – NFCC guidance

Apx 1c – NFCC risk based interventions guidance

Our focus is to protect buildings by ensuring compliance with fire safety laws. This then protects people – workers and residents.

- Commercial built environment
- Domestic dwellings – multi-occupied premises (flats/ high rise)
- Risk Based Inspection Programme (RBIP)
- Unwanted Fire Signals
- Engagement

Key objectives and focus

- Interventions, not just inspections
- Ensure our Protection arrangements meet current and emerging risks.
- Review, consult and (if agreed from consultation), change the way we respond to automatic fire alarms.
- Deliver local and regional safety intervention activities to ensure that those with duties under fire safety legislation are aware of their responsibilities (engagement).
- Understand and know the current built environment, and future developments.
- Ensure our enforcement role is effective.

2. Strategic Assessment of Risk (dependency with CRMP)

Appendix 2

The Strategic Assessment of Risk (SAOR) is an annually reviewed and published document which enables Essex County Fire and Rescue Service to assess the risks within its area of responsibility. This incorporates known risks and where possible future predictions of new or changing risks.

The SAOR (underpins the Services current Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) and future Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP). The SAOR is undergoing a light touch review in 2024. This is to ensure that the information we are using is as up to date as it can be for development of the CRMP. The CRMP is designed and developed to provide appropriate mitigations and responses to reduce these risks identified in the SAOR as far as is reasonably practicable.

This light touch review also enables the Service to provide all candidates of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner election a fair and equal understanding of the risk

awareness the Service is using to evidence the direction of its future Community Risk Management Plan.

Updates and changes

As a result of the review, there are some updates to the SAOR. This includes changes in terminology and changes to wording. The most significant update in terms of risk for Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, is the update to economic risk to align with the proposed budget and fire and rescue precept proposal.

The list of all the changes can be found in Appendix 2.

Climate change

Met Office observation and projection data for temperatures for Essex show us that the annual average surface temperatures are expected to increase by approximately 35% by 2079, with the hottest areas remaining closest to built-up areas of Essex which neighbour London.

Alongside the increase in annual surface temperatures across Essex, the annual averages of precipitation are due to decrease by approximately 99%. These projected figures indicate that Essex will experience extreme weather conditions of predominantly hot, dry weather. Where wetter weather does fall, this is likely to be onto surfaces which are too dry to absorb the water and lead to localised flooding.

See The Strategic Assessment of Risk, Chapter 6, for more details: <https://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/our-strategies-plans-and-reports>

Flooding

The impact of global warming on the environment can also be seen in the increase in flooding across the UK. More locally, the coast from Clacton to St Peters Flat, including Jaywick, Brightlingsea, Mersea Island, Heybridge, Maldon and the Colne and Blackwater estuaries are the areas where flooding is most prevalent. There have been 131 flood warnings over the last five years. Another area which has seen a high number of flood warnings is the coastline north of Clacton up to Felixstowe in Suffolk.

Action – partnership working, prevention, capabilities, equipment.

3. Engagement and Consultation

Appendix 3 – FRP consultation and engagement timeline x 4

- Engagement plan – CRMP and FRP - proposal
- Engagement Consultation
- Consultation Institute proposal

Fire and Rescue Plan and Community Risk Management Plan

The current ambition is to design and deliver a new Fire and Rescue Plan by end 2024. Alongside this, the Service needs a new CRMP from 2025.

- Fire and Rescue Plan – the **why**

- Strategic Assessment of Risk – the **why and what**
- Community Risk Management Plan – the **what**
- Service strategies/ business plans – the **how, when, who**

Joint principles of engagement for the Fire and Rescue Plan, and the Community Risk Management Plan

- The consultation will include a range of methods to ensure we reach all stakeholders.
- Our communications to support the consultation will be inclusive and accessible with a clear plan agreed before the activity.
- The consultation will have a clear beginning, middle and end. Its remit should be finite and the scope for stakeholder input will be clear.

Our audiences are very similar, if not the same: 1.8 million residents, ECFRS staff, representative bodies, partners, media, political stakeholders.

A joint consultation provides an opportunity to use best practice methods to reach all our audiences (including seldom heard). It also provides an opportunity to reinforce key messages and increase understanding of the role of a modern-day fire and rescue service.

ECFRS and The Consultation Institute (Pre consultation)

As part of our CRMP consultation planning we have approached the Consultation Institute, which is the best practice organisation for advice. This means we can ensure that the consultation is lawful, will stand up to any potential legal challenges and is fair and accessible. Using a service like this is recognised as best practice in the Communication and Engagement Fire Standard, as well as the CRMP Fire Standard.

Following the PFCC election in May, the ECFRS and OPFCC communication leads will present a proposal to work together with the Consultation Institute to gain Quality Assurance.

4. Public Perception Survey

Appendix 4 – Public Perception Survey script

A contract has been awarded to a social research agency who will conduct a public perception survey over two years on behalf of PFCC and ECFRS.

The social research agency will measure public views and engage with our harder to reach and more diverse communities – understanding their risks and needs.

This agency will engage with communities for 12 consecutive months, then the findings are reviewed. They will engage for an additional 12 months. This ensures the data is valid and reliable.

The social research agency will:

- Ensure they reach and engage with at least 8,000 people over 12 months – to ensure that the data is statistically valid.

- Use several methods (telephone survey, digital, workshops, interviews) to engage with and reach the communities we specifically ask them to reach.
- Provide headlines throughout the 12-month data collection period.
- Reach a representation of our communities across Greater Essex, including those groups and communities who we have little or no interaction with.

Task name	Responsibility Essex = ECFRS and PFCC	Duration (work days)
Inception Meeting	SMSR/ Essex	1
Initial question thoughts sent to SMSR	Essex	4
SMSR collate script thoughts	SMSR	5
Full quota schedule put together	SMSR	5
Invite stakeholders to survey workshop	Essex	5
Survey Workshop	SMSR/ Essex	1
Build Survey draft 1	SMSR	2
Review draft 1	SMSR/ Essex	5
Agree any changes to the script	SMSR/ Essex	1
Build Survey draft 2	SMSR	1
Review/Pilot draft 2	SMSR/ Essex	5
Survey sign off	Essex	1
Mobilisation of interviewing staff	SMSR	5
Interviewing Q1*	SMSR	42

* Interviewing Q1 will start Wednesday 28 February 2024.

5. Timeline of key activities

Appendix 5 – timeline of key activities

Following the components of the Fire Standard:

- Defining Scope
- Hazard identification
- Risk Analysis
- Decision-Making
- Evaluation

Key strategic meetings/ decision boards

		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Dependencies	SAOR review												
Strategic/ decision meetings	CRMP Board	30		08	19	28			28			12	20
	SLT decision		06	19	30		11	23		10	15	26	
	PFCC Strategic Board			06			06			19			12
	Fire and Crime Panel		01	14			20	25			03		09
OPFCC	Pre-election/ purdah			18 Mar – 2 May									
	PFCC Candidate briefing			8									
	FRP development												
	FRP consultation												
	Fire and Crime Panel										03		

LINKS TO FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN

This project is being managed alongside the new Fire and Rescue Plan development plan. The outcome of the project will take into consideration and align to the FRP 2024.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs to be scoped alongside proposals. These will be worked into the budget 2025/26.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

None.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

The actions being taken will not have a disproportionate impact on individuals with protected characteristics (as defined within the Equality Act 2010), when compared to all other individuals and will not disadvantage people with protected characteristics.

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.

HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

To include rep bodies, boards, external agencies.

A full communication log can be found on the CRMP project SharePoint site.

All project stakeholders have been identified, and are regularly engaged and communicated with. Full stakeholder communication plans can be seen on the CRMP SharePoint site.

FUTURE PLANS

Long term strategic direction.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AND APPENDICES

Apx 1a - Operational response workstream

Apx 1b - Prevention workstream

Apx 1b - Severity model

Apx 1c - Protection workstream

Apx 1c – ORH analysis by risks groupings (Dec 2023)

Apx 1c – NFCC guidance

Apx 1c – NFCC risk based interventions guidance

Apx 2 - Strategic Assessment of Risk Review

Apx 3 - Engagement plan – CRMP and FRP Proposal
Apx 3 - Engagement Consultation
Apx 3 - Consultation Institute proposal
Apx 3 – FRP Consultation Timeline
Apx 4 – Public Perception Survey script
Apx 5 – Timeline of key activities