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Meeting Date	29th July 2024		
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Subject	Estates Strategy Update		
Type of Report	Information		
PFCC Action Point No.		For Publication	Yes

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- i. SLT / PFCC to note the strategic direction set by the ECFRS Property Department including the progress made against the ECFRS Property Strategy 2021-26
- ii. SLT / PFCC to consider Strategic Funding Allocation for Workplace Improvement Programme (previously Wholetime Modernisation Project) exhibiting the timeline and enhancement to the estate, inclusivity, welfare and protection from contaminants.
- iii. Endorse the approach to deliver Capital funding for Contaminants with the installation of Washing Machines at Fire Stations.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The ECFRS estates strategy, approved in December 2021, outlines a five-year period of progressive estates changes. This strategy aligns with the organisation's commitment to enhance operational effectiveness, safety, and community service.

Key deliverables include tracking progress against the strategy's objectives, ensuring effective estate management. Additionally, the report highlights findings from the HMICFRS, providing valuable insights for continuous improvement. Data on property performance, utilisation, and maintenance inform decision-making. Furthermore, the summary provides an overview of the previous and current years' capital programme, emphasising investments made to enhance infrastructure and operational capabilities. Looking ahead, ECFRS remains committed to strategic property development, with clear intentions for future estate enhancements.

BACKGROUND

The ECFRS estate comprises of 60 sites and buildings across the County of Essex, supporting one of the largest fire and rescue services in the country, serving a County with a wide variety of risks, covering an area over 1,400 square miles and a population of 1.8 million. The estate includes 51 fire stations staffed by whole-time and on-call firefighters, a Headquarters at Kelvedon Park, and other buildings which are utilised for workshops, offices, training, and command centres.

The ECFRS Estate Strategy 2021-26, outlines the forward-looking vision, ambition, and commitment for the fire estate in Essex. Its key objectives include providing a fit-for-purpose, efficient, and environmentally friendly estate that supports the fire service at both the county and community levels.

The strategy aims to keep the workforce and people of Essex safe and recognises the following key areas:

Dynamic Demands:

- The nature of the fire service is constantly evolving, and the demands across prevention, protection, and response delivery are dynamic. Engaging communities, working with other agencies, and supporting personnel require high standards for today and the future.

Emergency Response:

- The fire service sector continues to respond to a broad range of emergencies with skill and professionalism. Modern facilities allow firefighters and support staff to meet public needs effectively.

Innovation and Technology:

- Advances in technology enable agile service delivery, flexibility, and evidence-based decision-making. The goal is to provide a resilient, effective, and cost-efficient service to Essex communities.

Recruitment and Priorities:

- As new firefighters are recruited and priorities align with the Fire & Rescue Plan, developing workspaces becomes essential. Effective, sustainable, and collaborative facilities are crucial.

Community Engagement:

- Fire stations aim to be at the heart of communities, accessible and engaging for the public, maintaining visibility and confidence.

Strategic Direction:

- The strategy aligns with the government's Fire Reform agenda, emphasising efficiency, accountability, transparency, and representation of the served communities.

Investment Importance:

- Essex County Fire and Rescue Services Estates Strategy represents a significant financial investment. Buildings and facilities must provide efficient, effective, and productive environments for employees to achieve the vision.

Overall, the strategy focuses on creating a modern, adaptable fire estate that meets the needs of Essex residents and ensures the safety and well-being of all stakeholders.

Estate Strategy Vision

Our ECFRS Property Vision is for:

“An Estate That Contributes to Keeping the People of Essex Safe”

Our vision centres around three core principles:

Strategic Investment:

- We commit to purposeful investments that enhance safety. Whether it's modernising fire stations, upgrading equipment, or optimising response, every decision aligns with our mission: to protect lives and property.

Improved Efficiency:

- Efficiency isn't just about doing more with less; it's about doing better with what we have. Streamlined processes, data-driven insights, and resource allocation ensure that our estate operates at peak efficiency, maximising our impact.

Embracing New Ways of Working:

- The fire service landscape evolves rapidly. By embracing innovation, technology, and collaboration, we adapt to changing needs. Our estate becomes a hub for creativity, learning, and community engagement.

HMICFRS Findings 2023

As recognised by the HMICFRS 2023 Inspection, the Estate Strategy 2021-2026 is ambitious with significant projects and modernisation over the next few years. As the CRMP 2025-29 assumptions become known, these will assist in the construction of the ECFRS Asset Management Strategy.

The Estates Strategy 2021-26 identifies the pledge to provide a fit for purpose, efficient and environmentally friendly estate that supports the work of the fire service at both a County and community level. It also sets out a forward looking, progressive vision for an estate that contributes to keeping the people of Essex safe through strategic investment, improved efficiency and embracing new ways of working.

ONE TEAM

FLEET, PROPERTY & TECHNICAL SERVICES HMICFRS FEEDBACK 2023

HMICFRS ASKED: How effective & efficient is ECFRS? HMICFRS FOUND:

- We found the estates and fleet strategies to be ambitious and detailed.
- New efficiencies including Modernisation and new training facilities programme
- Collaboration is producing some benefits: including shared accommodation with Essex Police and EEAST
- Work aligns with IRMP, including estates and fleet strategies
- The Joint Fleet Workshops is due to reach the final stages of planning by end of 2023.
- Collaboration generates savings, but the service could achieve more.
- There are significant collaborative schemes planned in the capital programme, these are yet to be realised.
- The service plans to make efficiency gains through sound financial management and best practice including Fleet and Estates.

* The service is using capital receipts reserves to fund its capital programme

WE ARE PROUD
WE ARE FLEET, PROPERTY & TECHNICAL
WE ARE ECFRS

OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS

Update against Strategy

The below table highlights our progress against our core principles detailed within our estate strategy. For each “We Will Statements”, this report details the progress, RAG Status and rationales:

We Will Statements	Update / Progress	RAG	Rationale
Utilise collaboration opportunities for land sharing in addition to the sale of assets to invest in the improvement of our buildings. We will start with those buildings with the greatest need, that deliver the best value and benefit for both the public and our staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sale of Dovercourt to Essex Police £350k • ECFRS Service HQ, shared use of building with multi agency partners for training, exercising and meetings • EEAST Base Stations & Welfare Facilities • Terrance Higgins Trust, use of Harlow Station for monthly HIV testing • EEAST Servicing, at our Fleet Workshops we are currently servicing and maintaining 39 Ambulances. 		ECFRS seeks to further maximise its assets through collaborative opportunities and the potential of income generation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative arrangements with HM Coastguard using South Woodham Ferres • Community Safety Rooms at Stations • Joint Fleet workshops Project • SAMP Grays Fire Station Project 		
Keep a flexible approach to our portfolio. Our operational bases change to reflect need and opportunities for sharing and collaborating with partners in the locations where we need to be. We will own properties where it makes sense and will look to share with partners where we can.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above detailed above and with addition work to explore a Rochford Community Safety Hub 		
Address our high priority operational issues caused by poor condition of the estate and the associated deteriorating resilience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioning of Industry Standard Condition Survey 2024 through OCG, with contract award in January 2025 • Workplace Improvement Programme (Wholetime Modernisation Programme, • Completion of Orsett Fire Station in July 2024, with contract award for Southend in early 2025 and planning for Leigh commencing June 2024 for delivery during 2025. • Delivering a Maintenance Programme • Scoping of options to expedite Workplace Improvement Programme with an expressed timeline for completion 		<p>The 2024-25 Condition Survey will be awarded in Jan 2025</p> <p>Funds and Timeline of Workplace Improvement Programme</p>
Implement a robust approach to the analysis of the priorities, costs, and benefits of our investments, ensuring that any opportunities to 'invest to save' are	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed Productivity and Efficiency Returns for 2024/25 • LED Programme for commencement in 2024 • Net Carbon Zero Roadmap • Heat Decarbonisation Plans for estate being completed 		

<p>fully explored. This will be delivered through the governance of our investment programmes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment of Property, Fleet & Technical Services Analyst due to commence in September 2024 		
<p>Incorporate energy reduction technologies in line with the environmental Strategy 2020 – 2030 and with investments to improve health and safety, security, equality, and diversity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Management Systems • Considerations for Green Electric • Programme of alternative heating solutions • Heat Decarbonisation Plans for estate being completed • Environmental considerations automatically programme into improvement programmes • Environmental Roadmap • Identification of Grants to access wider funding 		
<p>Monitor the condition of the estate, identifying appropriate requirements to ensure the portfolio is fit for purpose. Identifying asset improvement and asset protection works separately to ensure that we are making best use of our resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioning of Industry Standard Condition Survey 2024 • Capital Programme • Workplace Improvement Programme (Wholetime Modernisation Programme) 		<p>Capital Investment capped at £1m.</p> <p>Capital investment is directed at Wholetime Station Modernisation</p> <p>Timeline to deliver Workplace Improvement Programme (Wholetime modernisation) to all assets – 7 years.</p>
<p>Maximise our approach within the Digital & Data Strategy to ensure that we are introducing new technologies that allow our estate to function in an agile, flexible and collaborative way.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Management Systems • Carbon Net Zero Roadmap collaboration with LASER • Governance Structures • Renewable Energies • EV Charging Infrastructure & launch of Monta System 		

<p>Develop a Roadmap that details the cost, timelines and resource requirements to deliver the Strategy and feed into our Reserves Strategy and Capital Programme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed Costings with industry stakeholders to estimate costs accurately. • Detailed Capital Management Plan. • Clear Timelines & Milestones • Alignment with the overall ECFRS Property strategy and project dependencies & resource requirements: • Integration with Reserves Strategy and Capital Programme • Robust governance processes for effective execution. • Development of ECFRS's first environmental roadmap. 		
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Current Work

Over the past six months, the Property Department has significantly intensified its focus on data insight and evaluation. By analysing historical data spanning the last nine years, we've gained valuable insights into the demand for property services.

This rigorous examination has allowed us to identify trends, anticipate customer needs, and adapt our strategies accordingly. Moving forward this insight will be utilised for the future realignment of the property team, to ensure it meets organisational needs and adapts a more project commissioning-based approach.

<p>% of Increased Tickets Raised from 2015-16 to 2023-24</p>	<p>51% Increase</p>	<p>Approx: 2600 tickets per year over 9 years.</p>
<p>From an initial peak in 2017-2018, tickets raised have shown a steady increase from 2021 to current year, it is predicted ticket levels during 2024-25 will exceed the peak.</p>		

Key initiatives and activities

This section outlines the key initiatives and activities of the Property Department. It provides an overview of the capital program delivery for 2023-24, where the service successfully achieved projects up to £1 million. Additionally, it includes details of the 2024-25 capital program for ECFRS property.

Capital Programme Summary 2023-24

The 2023-24 ECFRS Property Programme delivered capital projects up to the value of £965,908 against a budget of £1 million. In this period twelve projects were completed, with two further projects being partially completed including asbestos removal works at Basildon Fire Station at £55k and Wivenhoe Fire Station against a budget of £34k. During this period modernisation works were nearing completion on Orsett Fire Station (£365k invoiced) with a balance of £181k.

Capital Programme 2023/24

Budget: £1.0m + £0.15m

Wholetime Station Modernisation (WTSM)	Asset Protection Projects		
Orsett WTFS	12 completed Projects	Two Projects	9 Projects
£365,842	£352,727	£65,672	£-
Invoiced as at 26 March 2024	COMPLETED PROJECTS	PARTIALLY COMPLETED PROJECs	On Hold, Not Progressed or now for 24/25 Delivery
£181,668	Wivenhoe Internal Dec (spend to date at £10.6k) and Basildon Boilers (only Asbestos Removal at £55,026)		Currently being scoped for Procurement, Delivery in 24/25
Goods receipted, project completion and invoice less retention to be submitted in April 2024	Forecast Outturn: £965,908		

Capital Programme 2024-25

As highlighted in the April 2024 Capital Highlight Report, the below table outlines the summary of the Land and Building and Asset Improvement report for Essex County Fire and Rescue Service:

Project	Detail	RAG
Fleet Workshops Relocation (Consultancy fees):	Carry Forward 2023/24: Not specified Budget 2024/25: £246,900 Actual Spend: £246,900	
Hot Fire Training Relocation (Consultancy fees):	Carry Forward 2023/24: Not specified Budget 2024/25: £250,000 Actual Spend: £250,000	
Training works/BA Chambers:	Carry Forward 2023/24: £326,158 Budget 2024/25: £175,842 Forecast - Current: £502,000 Actual Spend: Not specified	
Totals:	Carry Forward 2023/24: £326,158 Budget 2024/25: £672,742 Forecast - Current: £998,900	

Overview of projects detailed within the Capital Programme:

Fleet Workshops:

- We are actively engaged in a commercial review with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) to address the legal and financial implications of the Fleet Workshops project.

- A comprehensive business case is underway and is scheduled for completion by Winter 2024.

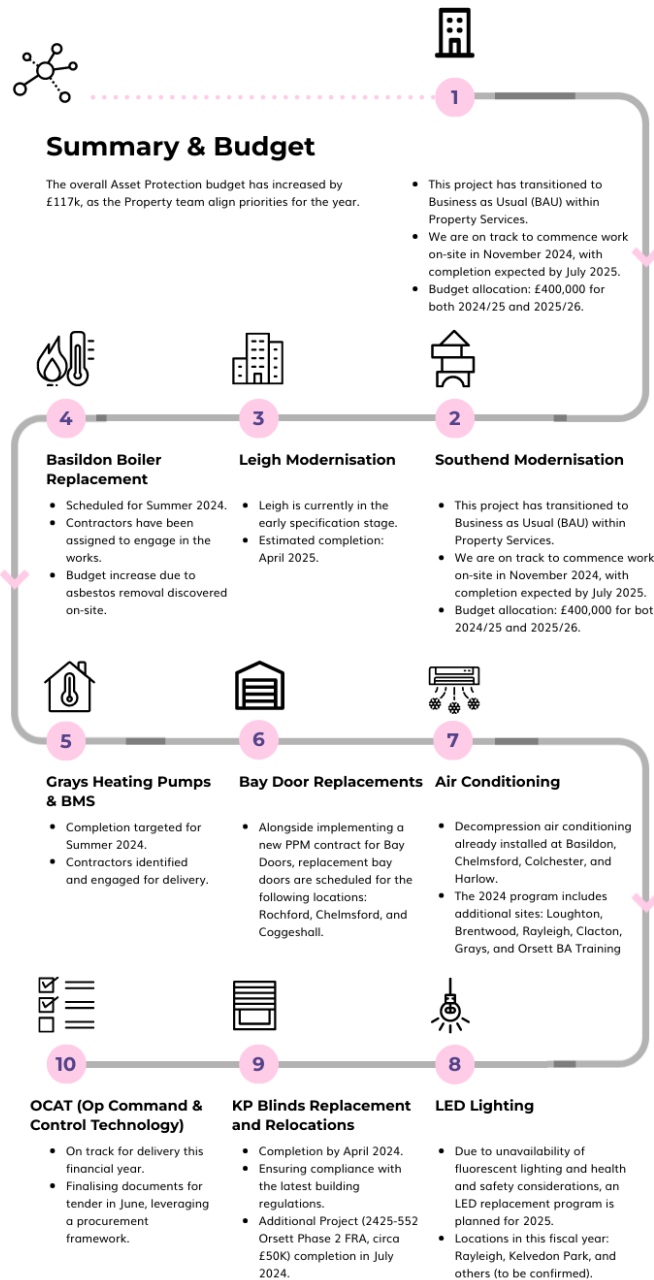
Hot Fire Training Facility:

- Our Operations Training Team is currently reviewing the design for the Hot Fire Training Facility.
- Two value engineering workshops are in progress to ensure the design aligns with our operational requirements.
- On June 27th, we will present the design alongside the RIBA stage 3 report to the board.
- Following this, a decision sheet for the next RIBA stage will be prepared for September.

OCCAT:

- Finalisation of documents for the OCCAT project is underway this month.
- We have identified a framework for the project, which will be structured into three distinct lots.
- Current Status: Preparing for tender

The graphic provides a concise summary of the Asset Protection projects for Essex County Fire and Rescue Service:



Workplace Improvement Programme (Wholetime Station Modernisation Programme)

In summary, the ECFRS strategic approach balances investment in critical areas while managing risks associated with the broader estate. The commitment to modernisation reflects a long-term vision for enhanced service delivery and firefighter safety.

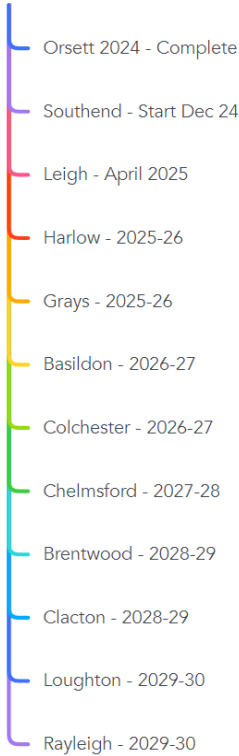
ECFRS has strategically allocated a significant portion of its capital investment toward the Workplace Improvement Programme (Wholetime Station Modernisation Program). This deliberate shift in funding represents a balanced risk, aiming to enhance operational capabilities while addressing critical challenges. The focus lies on wholetime stations, where private accommodation (replacing dorms), improved welfare facilities, training spaces, and decontamination areas are key components. By investing in these areas, ECFRS aims to improve firefighter well-being, operational efficiency, and overall service delivery.

While prioritising wholetime stations, ECFRS acknowledges the risk associated with the remainder of its estate. The remaining stations will receive essential proactive

maintenance, ensuring operational readiness and compliance. Delivering the Wholetime Station Modernisation Program is a substantial undertaking due to the complexity of each station's requirements. Given available funds, the program is projected to extend until 2030.

ECFRS recognises the broader cultural challenges faced by fire and rescue services (FRS) across the UK. Despite the extended timeline, it's crucial to address compliance with modern standards. Full compliance may take 6 to 7 years.

**Wholetime Station
Modernisation
Programme**



Expediting the Timeline for Workplace Improvement

ECFRS is current assessing options to expedite the Improvement Programme from 6 to 7 years to a potential 3 years. This approach alongside both ECFRS Property, Procurement and Finance will identify options for delivery and Strategic Funding Allocation.

ECFRS recognised the cultural challenges faced by FRS across the UK and the benefits of workplace improvements to address these, balanced with the challenges and complexity of modernisation efforts, additional funding required and resourcing challenges to complete this.

Whilst Orsett Fire Station was completed in July 2024, Southend Fire Station looks to provide the service template for workplace modernisation and will provide a financial model for station improvements for the future. With the contract for Southend likely to be awarded in early 2025, it is projected this project will cost approximately £850,000. Therefore, it can be expected that the remaining stations will need similar funding in place.

Contaminants

In summary, ECFRS's commitment to safety extends beyond operational protocols. Through thoughtful station design, we enhance protection for our employees, ensuring they can serve the community effectively while minimizing exposure to hazardous materials.

As ECFRS progresses with Workplace Improvement, we recognise the critical importance of safety for our firefighters. One key aspect of this effort is the deliberate design of our fire stations to incorporate clean and dirty zones.

Clean and Dirty Zones:

- Clean zones are designated areas where personnel can operate without contamination. These spaces are crucial for maintaining hygiene and preventing cross-contamination.
- Dirty zones, on the other hand, are where contaminated equipment and clothing are handled. These areas minimise the risk of spreading hazardous substances.

Downstairs Washing Facilities:

- In addition to Firefighters adhering to the disrobing of PPE following an incident at scene.
- As part of station modernisation, ECFRS is incorporating downstairs washing facilities. These areas allow firefighters to further decontaminate immediately upon returning from incidents.
- By having washing facilities conveniently located, we further reduce exposure to harmful substances and enhance overall well-being.

Complementing Scene Disrobe Protocols:

- While ECFRS already follows a process of disrobing at the scene, the inclusion of clean and dirty zones adds an extra layer of protection.
- Firefighters can transition seamlessly from contaminated areas to clean zones, minimising risks during critical moments.

Employee Safety as a Priority:

- Workplace improvements provide a unique opportunity to embed safety features directly into our infrastructure.
- By prioritising clean and dirty zones, we create a safer environment for our dedicated workforce.

Feasibility of Commercial Washing Machines

The Protecting Our People Board, with research both National and insight including Anna Stac, and ECFRS Health & Safety has identified the presence of minimal contaminants on firefighter undergarments. While ECFRS awaits further research and guidance, the Protecting Our People Board has recommended exploring a proactive solution of installing commercial washing machines at all stations.

Property Feasibility Study:

- ECFRS Property has conducted a thorough feasibility study to assess the viability of this initiative.
- The goal is to mitigate the risk of contaminants on clothing, ensuring firefighter safety.

Contract Extension Constraints:

- For several months, ECFRS extended a washing contract to address this issue.
- Unfortunately, due to procurement rules, there is no opportunity to extend the contract beyond October 2024.

Cost Considerations:

- The feasibility work estimates that installing commercial washing machines will cost approximately £350k.
- Currently, work is exploring an end-to-end process of specifying, installation and installing machines to all stations that are deemed feasible.

Recommendation to SLT/PFCC:

- ECFRS and the Police, Fire, and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) endorse the proactive approach to installation and identifying.
 - Mitigating this risk is crucial for firefighter well-being and operational effectiveness.
 - In summary, proactive investment in commercial washing machines aligns with ECFRS's commitment to safety. Urgent consideration of funding will ensure timely implementation.

What's new on the Horizon**Estate Management System (Concerto)**

In 2024, ECFRS made a strategic investment by implementing a cloud-based version of Concerto, our property management system. This modernised system seamlessly integrates with the new ECFRS Finance System, eliminating the need for remote desktop access and hosted solutions. The move to the cloud enhances efficiency, accessibility, and data synchronisation, positioning ECFRS for streamlined property management and financial operations.

Re packaging of Contractors

As a property department we are embarking on an initiative to consolidate existing Facilities Management Contracts. By packaging these contracts together, we aim to achieve several key objectives:

Supplier Reduction:

- Streamlining suppliers will enhance efficiency and reduce administrative overhead.
- Fewer suppliers mean clearer communication channels and improved accountability.

Efficient Job Allocation:

- Our goal is to allocate jobs directly onto the Concerto systems.
- This streamlined process ensures timely execution and accurate tracking.

Direct Supplier Involvement:

- Suppliers will be directly allocated works from the system.
- They can input data seamlessly, improving transparency and collaboration.

Benefits and Challenges:

- While packaging contracts is a significant task, the benefits—such as cost savings and process efficiency—are substantial.

The procurement and property team are actively evaluating current contracts to pave the way for this strategic transformation.

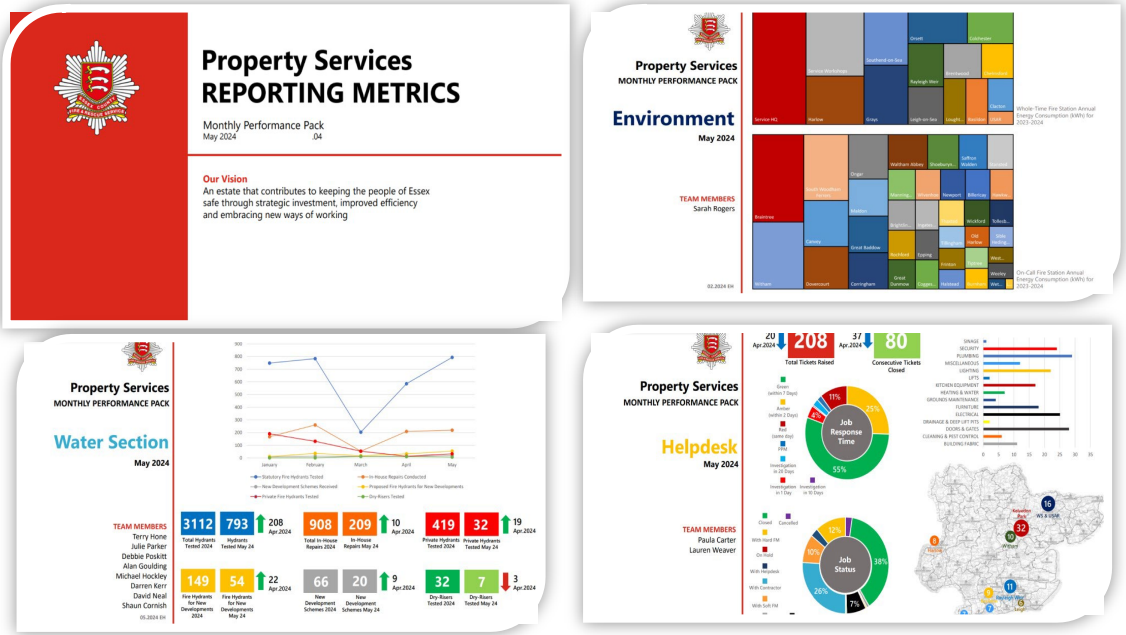
Performance Management

The ECFRS Property Department has successfully launched a comprehensive monthly performance dashboard. This report is presented to the Corporate Services Directorate Board, providing critical insights into various aspects of property management. Key components covered in the dashboard include:

Area	Metric	Status
Availability of Buildings:	Tracking building availability ensures efficient resource allocation and operational readiness.	Live
Compliance:	Monitoring compliance with regulations and standards is essential for safety and legal adherence.	Live
Condition Assessment:	Evaluating the condition of properties helps prioritise maintenance and upgrades.	Development
Cost Analysis:	Detailed cost breakdowns aid in financial planning and resource optimisation.	Development
Engagement and Inclusivity:	Assessing stakeholder engagement and inclusivity initiatives contributes to a positive work environment.	Development
Maintenance Metrics:	Tracking maintenance activities ensures timely interventions and asset longevity.	Live
Satisfaction Levels:	Gathering feedback from users helps improve service quality and user experience.	Development
Sustainability Measures:	Environmental impact and sustainability efforts are integral to responsible property management.	Live
Helpdesk Metrics:	Monitoring defects, response times, and allocation streamlines issue resolution.	Live

Facilities Management and Compliance Reporting:	Comprehensive reporting ensures transparency and accountability.	Live
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In summary, this performance dashboard enhances security and oversight, allowing the ECFRS Property Department to deliver its services effectively and proactively.



Property Intention

Previous Structure

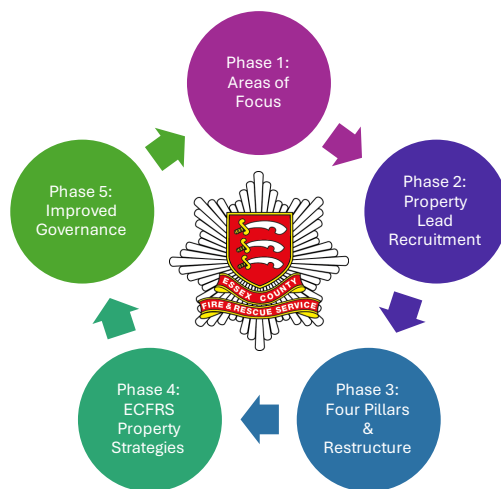
In 2023, the Head of Property Services Role was removed from the ECFRS Property Structure. As part of this change, an additional responsibility allowance was granted to the most senior member of the team, extending until the end of June 2024. Additionally, an external consultant was brought in to assist with Capital Projects until March 2024. Furthermore, the recruitment process for the Assistant Director of Asset Management (Fleet, Property & Technical Services) began in February 2024. To formalise these adjustments, a Strategic Property Lead is now required to oversee the delivery of the ECFRS Property Programme.

Current Structure

To ensure that the Property Services team can support the organisations priorities in the future it is considered that a new operating model should be adopted that puts strategic asset management at the centre of its vision and aims.

Intention

Implementing the ECFRS property intention will require careful planning. This report outlines a 5-step phased approach designed to ensure a structured and effective implementation. Each phase builds upon the previous one, creating a solid foundation for the property intension initiative.



This phased approach ensures that each step is given the attention it deserves, paving the way for a successful implementation of the property intension strategy.

Strategic Property Lead

The commissioning of a Strategic Property Lead aims to transform the property department, ensuring it meets the future needs of ECFRS. Recruitment for this pivotal role is scheduled for the summer of 2024. Recognising the critical importance of securing an experienced and dynamic Strategic Property Lead, ECFRS has taken decisive action. A specialist recruitment company will be engaged to manage the end-to-end recruitment process. Their expertise will ensure that every effort is made to identify and attract the right candidate who can drive the modernisation of our property department and provide the best service to our employees, partners and the public of Essex.

Strategies

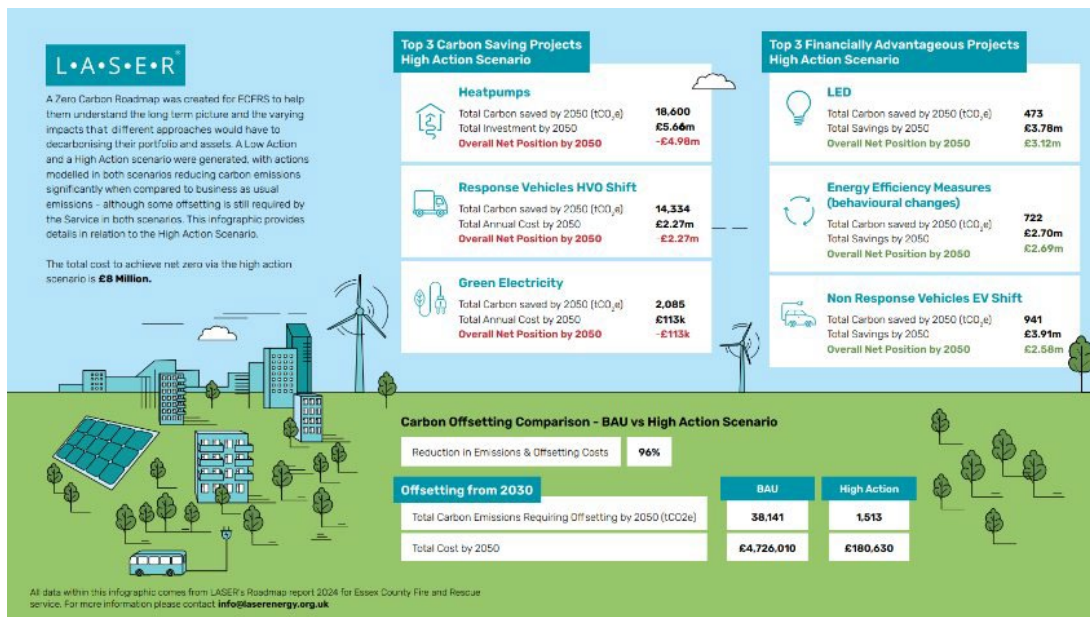
To achieve a robust, modern, and fit-for-purpose Property Department, ECFRS will develop the following strategies:

Strategy	Why
Estate Management Strategy	The ECFRS Estates Management Strategy aims to create a modern, adaptable estate that supports the fire service’s mission while prioritising safety and community engagement. The strategy will aim to provide a fit-for-purpose, efficient, and environmentally friendly estate that supports ECFRS’s work at both the county and community levels. The strategy will explore the long-term demand for the built environment to assess potential options for change (including maintain, renovate and disposal), and will describe the overall approach to managing the estate including governance. The strategy will outline how the service will optimise the estate, detail plans for implementation ensure efficient allocation of resource. A key factor of the Estate Management Strategy will be

	maximising our estate by understanding our data, through the introduction of KPIs.
Facilities Management (FM) Strategy	The ECFRS Facilities Management Strategy will outline how the services physical assets and environments will be managed and maintained to support core operations. The strategy will include the following components including Hard & Soft FM, Space Optimisation, Energy Management, Safety and Compliance and State of the Estate.
Property Maintenance Strategy	The property maintenance strategy will incorporate compliance reactive and preventative maintenance, and procurement aspects. Ensuring that all ECFRS buildings and facilities comply with relevant regulations, safety standards and legal requirements. Addressing reactive and preventative maintenance to ECFRS assets preventing major failures or costly repairs. Scheduled inspections, servicing, and preventative measures to increase the lifespan of buildings. Development of robust procurement processes for Maintenance.

Net Zero Decarbonisation Road Map

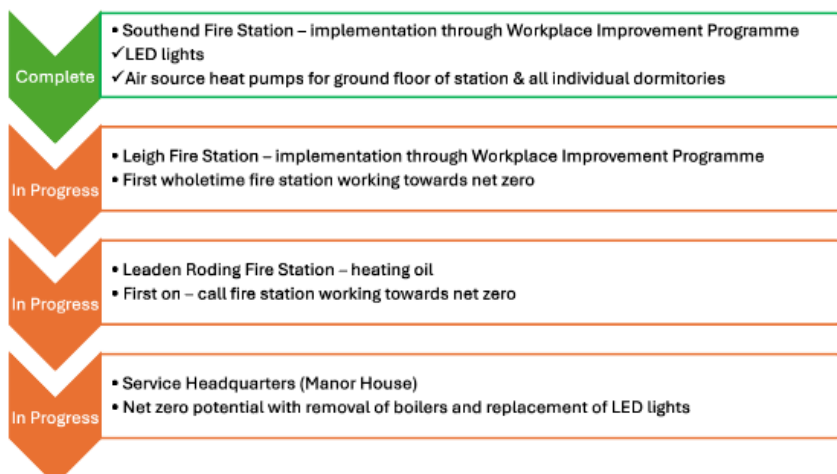
ECFRS is committed to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, aligning with the PFCC Environmental Strategy and UK Government Target. ECFRS has collaborated with LASER to develop a Zero Carbon Roadmap. By Analysing consumption data from 2022-23 (property) and 21-22 Fleet, we have assessed our carbon footprint. Our modelling scenarios include No Action, High Action and Low Action tasks to guide our transition towards a sustainable and environmental responsible future.



As a service, whilst we continue to evaluate options within the Carbon Net Zero Roadmap we are pursuing the following projects.



Heat Decarbonisation Plans



RISKS AND MITIGATIONS

Workplace Modernisation Pace and Funding:

- The current pace of Workplace Modernisation, spanning a 6 to 7-year program, poses risks.
- Delays or insufficient funding could impact project timelines and overall success.
- Mitigation to be developed around expediting the timeline and funding.

Contaminants Solution:

- The need to address garment contaminants is critical.
- The backdrop of the October 2024 laundry contract end date adds pressure.
- Funding for installing commercial washing machines must align with this requirement.

Property Lead Recruitment and Realignment:

- Recruiting a property lead is essential for effective strategy execution.
- Realigning the property structure to meet service needs and design involves risks related to organizational change and resource allocation.

LINKS TO FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN

The Essex County Fire & Rescue Service Property Strategy is aligned with the priority outlined in the PFCC Fire and Rescue Plan of ‘Making the best of our resources.’

Our property strategy aims to optimise the utilisation of our facilities, assets, and infrastructure to enhance operational effectiveness, cost efficiency, and community safety. By strategically managing our resources, we ensure that our properties serve their intended purposes effectively while minimising waste and maximising value.”

Priority	We will do this so
Make the best of our resources	The people of Essex can be reassured their money is being used efficiently and effectively.
The more efficiently we use the resources we have, the more we can invest in services that have a direct impact on people’s lives	
<p>We Will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use our resources to help the people of Essex to stay safe and mitigate the changing risks they face, in line with the priorities in this plan. • Plan the deployment of resources based on strategic priorities, evidenced need, articulated benefits and measurable outcomes. • Benchmark our performance with other fire and rescue services and leading public and private sector bodies to improve our own performance • • Ensure our investment in prevention work has measurable targets and achieves agreed outcomes. • Use new technology and business processes to improve service efficiency. • Ensure there is an effective risk management process in place 	

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Property Lead within budget and ATR agreed.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

None at this stage

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

None

FUTURE PLANS

As referenced in the Property Strategic Intention section of this report

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AND APPENDICES

None