

MINUTES
POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR ESSEX AND
ESSEX COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE
STRATEGIC BOARD – Extraordinary

16.00 – 17.00

18 April 2024

Via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Roger Hirst (RH)	Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (Chair)
Jane Gardner (JG)	Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
Pippa Brent-Isherwood (PBI)	Chief Executive Officer, PFCC's office
Rick Hylton (RHyl)	Chief Fire Officer, ECFRS
Andy Smith (AS)	Director of Operations ECFRS
Colette Black (CB)	Director of People Services, ECFRS
Janet Perry (JP)	Chief Financial Officer and Strategic Head of Performance & Resources
Emily Bownes (EB)	Head of Performance and Scrutiny (Fire)
Jeremy White (JW)	Finance Manager, PFCC's office
Neil Cross (NC)	Chief Finance Officer, ECFRS
Karl Edwards (KE)	Director of Corporate Services, ECFRS
Moira Bruin (MB)	Deputy Chief Fire Officer, ECFRS
Emily Cheyne (EC)	Assistant Director Communications, ECFRS
Heather Kinzett (HK)	Occupational Health Manager, ECFRS
Brooke Knight (BK)	Minutes, PFCC's office

Apologies: N/A

1 Welcome and apologies

- 1.1 JG welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced EB to her new role of Head of Performance and Scrutiny for ECFRS.

2 2022/23 Accounts – finalisation

- 2.1 NC confirmed the completion of work for the financial statements for year 2022/23. The auditors are in a position where they have completed all the work with the exception of work for the pension scheme assurance letters. This work has been promised by 30th September 2024. NC stated the accounts have also been presented at Audit Committee. NC noted the position is where ECFRS can look to propose these

to sign and publish the accounts, with an exception stated around Grant Thornton completing the work needed for the pension assurance letters.

- 2.2 RH asked NC if there were any amendments that need to be brought to The PFCC's Office attention around the accounts. NC confirmed there's no material adjustments at all to those accounts. RH questioned how ECFRS are dealing with the misstatement of £14.57 million for IFRC 14 and the pension fund £1.9 million. NC stated the pension value adjustments have been processed through by the last set of accounts in mid-March that have been overseen by the Audit Committee. There has also been a number of technical works on the pension scheme.
- 2.3 Discussion took place around the limitation of scope and JP stated that Grant Thornton will need to change the letter of representation which will include a representation about the pension and the audit findings report to say they're not going to issuing an unmodified opinion. RH clarified the accounts to be published in the current format subject to that issue and to publishing everything else subsequently. PBI clarified with NC that a decision report to propose publication of the accounts should be submitted, following this meeting and discussion.

The meeting ended at 16:22pm