

## EAST SUSSEX FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

**Meeting** Fire Authority

**Date** September 2021

**Title of Report** Prevention & Protection Strategy (2021-2026)

**By** Mark Matthews, Assistant Chief Fire Officer

**Lead Officer** Julie King, Assistant Director Safer Communities

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**Background Papers** HMICFRS Inspection Report for ESFRS  
HMICFRS State of Fire Report  
IRMP 2020 – 2025

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**Appendices** Appendix 1 – Draft Prevention & Protection Strategy 2021-2026

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### Implications

<b>CORPORATE RISK</b>		<b>LEGAL</b>	
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b>		<b>POLICY</b>	
<b>FINANCIAL</b>		<b>POLITICAL</b>	
<b>HEALTH &amp; SAFETY</b>		<b>OTHER (please specify)</b>	
<b>HUMAN RESOURCES</b>		<b>CORE BRIEF</b>	

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**PURPOSE OF REPORT** This report seeks approval from the Fire Authority for the ESFRS Prevention & Protection Strategy 2021-2026.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** The draft Prevention & Protection Strategy (appendix 1) has been developed both collaboratively and in support of and aligned to the Integrated Risk Management Plan and the Corporate Plan. The draft strategy has been reviewed by the Assistant Directors and other officers from across the Service.

The deliverables within the draft strategy take into consideration the findings of the HMICFRS 2019 Inspection and the HMICFRS State of the Fire and Rescue Service Reports published in both January 2020 and March 2021 and the Grenfell Tower action plan.

In order to deliver and implement all of the component parts of this strategy it has been indicatively costed at £357,000 and is annotated within the five year plans contained within Appendix A of the strategy

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**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Fire Authority:

- i) approve the Prevention & Protection Strategy 2021-2025;
  - ii) acknowledge the additional cost of £357,755 if the full strategy is implemented in the absence of any further funding from central government for Protection;
  - iii) note that additional funding bids to support the delivery of this Strategy will be considered as part of the 2022/23 Budget Setting process and included in the budget papers presented to the Fire Authority in February 2022; and
  - iv) note that regular reports on the delivery of the Prevention & Protection Strategy will be presented to SLT.
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**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 ESFRS wants to ensure it provides the highest quality service to the Communities we serve across the spectrum from community based services to highly specialised rescue services.
- 1.2 The HMICFRS Inspection report identified improvements that could be made such as how the Service prevents fire & other risks, how it protects the public through fire regulation and how it allocates resources to risk.
- 1.3 The draft Prevention & Protection Strategy 2021-2026 is shaped by a response to these broad issues and seeks to embed a new holistic approach to risk reduction. It has also considered the external change drivers articulated in the Strategy and our own internal change drivers such as the Integrated Risk Management Plan 2020-2025.
- 1.4 Every Fire & Rescue Service are expecting a level of funding to assist with improvements in Protection but this has not yet been confirmed.
- 1.5 It is an ambitious strategy and focusses on the integration of prevention, protection and response activities and ensures the Service has a competent and sustainable Prevention and Protection function and workforce.

**2. FINANCE**

- 2.1 In relation to the delivery of the five year action plan for Prevention, this will be delivered from the base budget with no new money requested. As part of the alternative delivery models for Prevention and the admin review there may be some efficiency savings made. With regard to Protection, there are some areas

highlighted for some additional funding requirements if the Service is to deliver all that is set out in the strategy.

- 2.2 This strategy has also incorporated the one off government grants that have been allocated to the Service and the additional costings are to secure the continuing costs for 6 x trainees once the government grant has been exhausted. It is also assumed within the strategy that there is no further government funding, which is unknown at this time.
- 2.3 Appendix A of the strategy outlines the indicative costings as part of the five year plan and in order to achieve the deliverables within the strategy an additional commitment of £357,000 has been identified.

### **3. ENGAGEMENT**

- 3.1 The strategy has been shared with Assistant Directors, other staff from across the Organisation and senior officers to enable them to feed into the strategy and to provide feedback during its development. This feedback has been incorporated within the draft strategy.
- 3.3 Additional conversations have taken place with the Assistant Director of Operational Support & Resilience to ensure synergy between the Response & Resilience Strategy and the Prevention & Protection Strategy.