

# East Sussex Fire Authority

National Framework Annual Statement of Assurance 2021 – 2022

This statement outlines the way in which East Sussex Fire Authority and East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service has had regard to the National Framework 2018, its "Planning for a safer future" Integrated Risk Management Plan 2020 – 2025 and its strategic plans between the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022<sup>1</sup>

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# 1. FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES ACT 2004

The core functions of the Fire Authority are set down in the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 ("the Act") which requires the promotion of fire safety; preparation for firefighting; protecting people and property from fires; rescuing people from road traffic collisions; and dealing with other emergencies such as flooding or terrorist attack. Further details can be viewed by following the link below:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/21/pdfs/ukpga\_20040021\_en.pdf

### How we are assured:

- 1.1 East Sussex Combined Fire Authority is the statutory body for discharging the requirements of the FRS Act across the County of East Sussex and City of Brighton and Hove.
- 1.2 The provisions made under Sections 7, 8 and 9 are outlined in detail within our Integrated Fire Risk Management Plan 2020-2025 (IRMP) found at the following link:

### https://www.esfrs.org/\_resources/assets/attachment/full/0/33809.pdf

1.3 This document describes how detailed analysis of historic and present activity and future demand continually outlines the people, places and equipment required to mitigate the fire and rescue related risks in our area. This has resulted in a fit for purpose Fire and Rescue Service to the community covering all aspects of Fire Prevention, Fire Protection and emergency response.

# 2. FIRE AND RESCUE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK 2018

Section 21 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act requires a fire and rescue authority to have regard to the National Fire and Rescue Framework when carrying out its functions and it gives statutory force to the National Framework thereby requiring every FRS to produce an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP).

Following the transfer of Fire and Rescue Services from the Department for Communities and Local Government to the Home Office and the subsequent Fire Reform of 2016, the National Framework 2018 set out the following priorities of all FRSs within England:

- Make appropriate provision for fire prevention and protection activities and response to fire and rescue related incidents
- Identify and assess the full range of foreseeable fire and rescue related risks their areas face
- Collaborate with emergency services and other local and national partners to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the service they provide
- Be accountable to communities for the service they provide; and
- Develop and maintain a workforce that is professional, resilient, skilled, flexible and diverse<sup>2</sup>

Section 25 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 requires the Secretary of State to lay a report before Parliament every two years on the extent to which all fire and rescue authorities are acting in accordance with the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England. (National Framework Document or NFD).

Additionally, the NFD 2018 also required Fire and Rescue Authorities to make provision for:

- How they should work with the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS)
- Changes in guidance to reflect legislative changes allowing mayors and police and crime commissioners to exercise the functions of a FRA

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> NFD May 2018 page 5, Sec 1.7

- Supporting the development and delivery of professional standards for FRAs addressing the current lack of co-ordination of standards across England's fire services
- A workforce section which outlines how FRAs should support and develop their workforce and;
- Changes to encourage commercial transformation by FRAs, leading to further collaboration, innovative thinking and sharing of best practice

A copy of the full Framework Document can be found at the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-and-rescue-national-framework-for-england--2

### How we are assured:

- 2.1 This Annual Statement of Assurance lays out how East Sussex Fire Authority comply with the legal framework as laid out above and forms the return to the Home Office for government consideration.
- 2.2 To ensure our IRMP is fit for purpose reflecting the inherent and anticipated fire and rescue related risks, we completed an Operational Response Review (ORR) from late 2018 to March 2020.
- 2.3 Using the attendance standards agreed by the Fire Authority in 2018, this process enabled us to demonstrate that to mitigate the fire and rescue related risks requires 24 Fire Stations with 18 immediate and 6 resilience frontline fire appliances available before demand or at the start of each day. The East Sussex Fire Authority attendance standards are set as:
  - The 1st fire appliance with an "on-station" response of 10 minutes 70% of the time
  - The 1st fire appliance with an 'on-call' response of 15 minutes 70% of the time

The ORR main report can be viewed using the following link here:

### https://www.esfrs.org/ resources/assets/attachment/full/0/33792.pdf

2.4 The ORR afforded us the opportunity to complete a comprehensive local analysis of the risk for each of the 24 existing Fire Stations in our area captured in individual Station Risk Profiles. Local managers use these to tailor our risk reduction activities. This data-led analysis was carried out using over 9 years of incident data with the F-SEC and MOSAIC risk analysis tools and has been used to demonstrate how the provisions we are making mitigate the actual and anticipated fire and rescue related risks.

The 24 Station Risk Profiles can be viewed using the following link here:

### https://www.esfrs.org/safer-future/

2.5 We can therefore say with confidence that our 5-year IRMP takes full cognisance of the geography, demography, transport networks and built and natural environment. It enabled us to provide suitable resources capable of dealing with all inherent and predictable fire and rescue related risks. In essence, this process enabled us to effectively plan our resource allocation against our identified risk profile. A copy of the current IRMP "Planning for a safer future" can be accessed by following this link:

#### https://www.esfrs.org/ resources/assets/attachment/full/0/33809.pdf

2.6 A team from Nottingham Trent University were commissioned to undertake research into IRMP methodology by the National Fire Chiefs Council. The team reviewed how we undertook our Operational Response Review which ultimately populated our 5-year IRMP 2020 – 2025 and the methodology was held in high regard identifying it as an example of good practice. Their report was published in August 2019 and can be found using the following link:

#### http://irep.ntu.ac.uk/id/eprint/36059/1/13495\_Murphy.pdf

2.7 Despite the onset of the Coronavirus in 2020 and the second wave through 2021, we progressed with the implementation of our detailed set of 8 workstreams and 29 individual work packages that

were planned to make the IRMP come to life for delivery by the end of the 2025-26 business year. There are several key interdependencies that were identified between each one enabling them to be analysed and planned into a schedule that minimises impact and maximises the expected efficiencies.

- 2.8 IRMP Strategic and Delivery Boards provide the governance structure which oversees the implementation of the 2020 2025 IRMP. The Boards meet monthly and report progress by exception into the Fire Authority Scrutiny and Audit Panel on a quarterly basis.
- 2.9 Progress toward completing the "Planning for a safer future" IRMP 2020 2025 follows in charts 1 and 2:

# Chart 1: Workstreams 1 – 4 "Planning for a safer future" IRMP 2020 – 2025 progress (February 2022)

				Apr-21	Oct-21	Apr-22	Oct-22	Apr-23	Oct-23	Apr-24	Oct-24	Apr-25	Percentage Complete	On Target
1	Operational Resilience Plan, consisting of the associated work packages (1 – 6).	1	Introduction of an overarching Operational Resilience Policy. No change to timescale			APRIL 22							15.00%	
		2	Introduction of a Flexible Crewing Pool (FCP) Date reviewed from Dec 22 to June 22			JUNE 2							20.00%	
		3	Enhancements to On-call – Introduction of Combined Salary Contracts					APRIL 23					15.00%	
		4	Enhancements to On-call – Introduction of Flexible on-call contracts (now being actioned through policy change)			JUNE 22							70.00%	
		5	Introduce a Combined crewing Policy			APRIL 22							80.00%	
		6	Introduce a Resource management function (now Logistics & Control Support)					Completed					100.00%	
~	Introduce a one-Watch, Flexible Rostering/variable crewing system at seven Stations including the fire station at The Ridge. Retirement Profiles may impact this timeline.	7	Introduce a <b>one-Watch duty system at Battle</b> Fire Station to work over 5 days with an establishment of 7. <b>Retirement Profiles may impact this timeline.</b>									APRIL 25	5.00%	
		8	Introduce a one-Watch duty system at 5 stations to work over 7 days with an establishment of 9. Retirement Profiles may impact this timeline.									APRIL 25	5.00%	
		9	The replacement and re-categorisation of 7 P4 appliances with <b>Specialist</b> vehicles and operational spares.					APRIL 23					20.00%	
	Remove seven low-activity PAPA4 fire appliances from six Day- crewed and one On-call station	10	Re-allocation of 4 frontline appliances (capable of being a PAPA1) as <b>operational spares</b>					APRIL 23					60.00%	
		11	Reclassification of 2 remaining Maxi-cab Stations (Seaford Completed) to 1-pump On-call PAPA1 status. Date reviewed from March 22 to April 22	_			_	Completed	_	- 			100.00%	
4	Introduce a PAPA2 at Bohemia Road and Reclassify The Ridge to a 1-Watch DCDS	12	Introduction of a <b>PAPA2 at Bohemia Road</b> in in cognisance of interdependent workstreams/packages							APRIL 24			0.00%	
		13	Reclassification of The Ridge Fire Station from 24/7 Shift to DCDS 7							APRIL 24			0.00%	

		14	Wildfire reduced from 5 to 4		APRIL 23	0.00%	
		15	Reduce 2 Rope Rescue vehicles to 1 (retain Bexhill)		APRIL 24	0.00%	
		16	High Volume Pump moved from Hove to Seaford	FEB 22		90.00%	
		17	Command Pod (Hove) withdrawn from service		Completed	100.00%	
		18	2 TRUs replaced with 1 TRU (at Lewes) and 1 RRVs (at Battle)		OCT 23	20.00%	
	Complete a review of Specialist	19	Foam Tender replaced with Operational Support Unit at Newhaven		OCT 23	5.00%	
5	Complete a review of Specialist appliances and teams and introduce a Shared crewing Policy	20	Swift Water Rescue capability withdrawn and replaced on the TR vehicle(s)		OCT 23	5.00%	
		21	New HazMat vehicle located at Heathfield		OCT 23		
		22	New Fire Investigation Vehicle located at Eastbourne		OCT 23	5.00%	
		23	Replace the Aerial Rescue Pump with a dedicated Aerial Ladder Platform	JUNE 22		75.00%	
		24	Introduce a Shared Crewing Policy for all Special appliances	APRIL 22		90.00%	
		25	Introduce a new PAPA2 appliance at Eastbourne Fire Station	JUNE 22		30.00%	
		26	The Service will no longer automatically attend <b>fire alarms</b> operating in low risk commercial premises.			45.00%	
6		27	The Service will continue its attendance at <b>lift releases</b> .	твс		10.00%	
		28	The Service will continue to attend calls to birds trapped in netting.		Completed	100.00%	
7	Implement "Group Crewing" improving the efficient use of our resources at the three fire stations across the City of Brighton and Hove	29	Implement a "Group Crewing" system at 90,91,92	Apr 22		30.00%	
8	Financial scoping of additional options and Policy development leading to organisational change	30	Financial scoping of additional options and Policy development leading to organisational change			APRIL 25	

# Chart 2: Workstreams 5 – 8 "Planning for a safer future" IRMP 2020 – 2025 progress (February 2022)

# 3. **PREVENTION**

"A fire and rescue authority must make provision for the purpose of promoting fire safety in its area. In making provision a fire and rescue authority must in particular, to the extent that it considers it reasonable to do so, make arrangements for;

- a) The provision of information, publicity and encouragement in respect of the steps to be taken to prevent fires and death or injury by fire;
- b) The giving of advice, on request, about
  - *i.* How to prevent fires and restrict their spread in buildings and other property;
  - ii. The means of escape from buildings and other property in case of fire."

### How we are assured:

- 3.1 ESFRS has developed and delivered a comprehensive strategic assessment of risk which is reviewed annually (AAR). This is an exceptionally detailed risk profile enabling the Service to target its resources more effectively. We consulted with partners including Local Authorities including Public Health and Highways, NHS Trusts including ambulance, Sussex Police, Sussex Safer Roads Partnership, the RNLI, RLSS and District & Borough Councils. Over 100 data sets were considered, including indices of multiple deprivation, infrastructure data, emergency planning and benchmarking data, health inequality, excess winter deaths, road and water casualties along with 9 years' worth of incident data which equated to 100,291 incident records This enabled us to draw together a comprehensive risk profile. The strategic assessment of risk drills down to station level and station profiles have been created for 24 stations. The AAR is based on previous year's performance and combined with the station profiles and allocates a percentage weighting against each of the five themes of fire / home safety, road, water and business safety. Groups are then required to allocate their resources and deliver their initiatives against the local risk profile.
- 3.2 Community safety activities focus on a range of **thematic plans**, drawn up in conjunction with the station profiles. These comprehensive action plans detail the activities that will be delivered across the Service area to reduce the risk associated with the following topics. Our **Initiatives Library** contains physical, documentary and communications resources targeting each area of community risk has been designed to support the delivery of prevention activities by operational crews. Development and maintenance of the thematic plans and initiatives library resources are the responsibility of the Group based Partnership & Engagement Business Partners.
- 3.3 ESFRS use 5 thematic plans within the Prevention section to reduce risk. We have used a strict risk-based approach within Government guidelines to deliver our prevention products that we had such success within past years since lockdown:
  - 1. Home/Fire: Safety in the home and wider environment
  - 2. **Road safety:** Giving particular attention to the number of people killed or seriously injured. We educate the community about the principles of the fatal four during "Safe drive, stay alive" events. To continue this good work during the pandemic, these have been delivered virtually, making full use of audio-visual platforms
  - 3. Water safety and drowning prevention: These activities centre around our "Water savvy, water safe" known as "WS<sup>2</sup>" water safety educational programme
  - 4. Incident reduction: Including the reduction of malicious and deliberate fire related incidents
  - 5. The **Education** thematic plan is further sub-divided:
    - a) **Wellbeing:** Educational interventions with children and young people, initiatives include safety in action and Firewise
    - b) **Watch scheme**: A programme of activity based within fire stations for young people on the cusp of exclusion from schools or involved in anti-social behaviour
    - c) **Safety in Action**: Our award winning practical based interactive sessions that encourage Year 6 children to recognise hazards and take action to keep themselves and others safe.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Fire and Rescue Services Act Section 6

- d) **Safeguarding:** Ensuring that our statutory obligations are met. Safeguarding referrals include areas such as hoarding
- e) **Fire Cadet schemes:** For young adults between 13 17 at Crowborough and Eastbourne Fire Stations, helping develop safety, life skills and team-building activities
- f) **Volunteers:** We now have over 60 volunteers who have maintained contact through lockdown helping us to keep high levels of safety and low risk of fire in the home
- 3.4 We continue to work with partners to improve people's access to health and support services and tailor these activities toward the most vulnerable within our communities
- 3.5 ESFRS has been commissioned by East Sussex Public Health to deliver the Child Safety Equipment and Advice service to reduce child accident and fire risk within homes through the fitting of child safety equipment such as safety gates and cupboard locks. The service has links with a wide cross-section of statutory agencies, third sector organisations and services to ensure we are fully integrated within our community.
- 3.6 The development of ESFRS's prevention strands is the responsibility of the three Partnership & Engagement business partners who support operational crews to utilise the initiative library resources, provide HSV training and develop new partnership opportunities to secure HSV referrals and reduce risk across the Service area.

Our cadre of volunteers is supported by two Community Volunteer coordinators. Our key community volunteering priorities are:

- To ensure volunteering is an integral part of ESFRS and that volunteer activities contribute to ESFRS reaching more members of the community and making East Sussex and Brighton & Hove a safer place.
- To ensure volunteering is a worthwhile, rewarding activity for our volunteers and that volunteers are involved in the decision-making process.
- To be inclusive and open, enabling as many people as possible to access our volunteering opportunities.
- To work in partnership with other organisations who also have a community safety ethos.
- To be creative and imaginative in our approach to volunteering, to best serve the needs of promoting community safety.
- To ensure we have the necessary systems and resources in place to best support our community volunteers and the communities we serve.
- 3.7 Youth engagement necessarily stalled in 2021-22 due to the C19 pandemic, however specialist, station-based and voluntary staff re-organised activities such as the Fire Cadet Scheme, football coaching and mentoring late 2021 early 2022. Our iESE award winning Safety in Action programme is a collaborative approach providing the opportunity for young people aged 10 to 11 years to experience risky scenarios in a safe environment.
- 3.8 It is fully recognised that a great number of those individuals that are at greatest risk to fire, road and water risk are because of poor mental or physical health.
- 3.9 We therefore continue to develop our GOLD AWARD winning GP Referral Scheme which enables GP practices to send ESFRS details of patients whom they consider at high risk of an unelected hospital admission. Our Information Sharing Agreement allows contact details of patients to be shared without consent for a Home Safety Visit to be offered. In addition to identifying potential fire risks these visits provide an opportunity for staff to identify risks within the home environment that might cause or contribute accidents, identify the potential to fall and to identify those who are frail and would benefit from an early intervention by health professionals. The scheme is enhanced through a feedback loop to GP Practices following the HSV.

# 4. **PROTECTION**

Fire and Rescue Authorities have a duty to enforce fire safety in all premises covered by the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (FSO). This includes a large range of premises such as:<sup>4</sup>

- all non-domestic premises including common parts of houses in multiple occupation (HMOs)
- Premises used as a workplace
- Premises used by the self-employed (including family run businesses)
- Premises used by the voluntary sector
- Places of worship

The only type of premises not covered by this legislation are single private dwellings which are covered by the Housing Act 2004 and enforced by the Local Authority.

### How we are assured:

- 4.1 During the last year, we have re-designed our Risk-Based Inspection Programme (RBIP) of nondomestic premises, which is a part of our risk reduction process to help us continuously reduce fire risk in the built environment from a holistic perspective using the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) operating system. The RBIP will continue to develop its intelligence focussing on the societal, commercial, domestic, Firefighter, heritage and environment risks within the community and utilise a range of proactive approaches including business engagement, partnership working, fire safety checks by crews, audit and enforcement activities by fire safety staff, to reduce risk and improve safety.
- 4.2 Fire Safety audits are always carried out by a qualified Fire Safety Officer to establish compliance with the requirements of the Order. The Service always aims to help businesses comply with fire safety legislation, however, at times it will enforce the law by implementing a formal procedure and will on occasion prosecute. This is always a last resort and the Service will continue to endeavour to avoid this course of action by working with Responsible Persons (RPs) including business owners/managers via a range of key interventions:
  - Fire Safety staff and operational crews offering proactive support to businesses to assist in complying with legislation
  - Collaborating with our partners by supporting intelligence led inspections and multiagency operations targeting immigration and modern slavery to ensure the most vulnerable in our community are protected from exploitation
  - Supporting economic growth and resilience of our local business communities by raising awareness of fire risk and engaging with responsible persons through a variety of initiatives including the development of Primary Authority Partnerships and the delivery of Fire Safety engagement events. The Coronavirus pandemic has affected these over the last two years, however, wherever possible and appropriate, we delivered our Service through a mixture of desktop audits, face to face audits (with appropriate controls in place) and regular contact with partners and responsible persons
  - Developing Safer Living and Safer Care initiatives in partnership with the Care Quality Commission, to support the elderly and vulnerable to obtain safe and secure homes within a caring environment. This is achieved through both inspection of premises and engagement with duty holders promoting the person-centred approach to risk, the installation of sprinklers and promotion of new technology such as social alarms
  - Information provided digitally to support businesses and;
  - Actively supporting the National Fire Chief Council's calendar of events .
- 4.3 The Fire Safety functions are delivered through a sustainable and adaptive structure that enables effective provision at all times of day. Services are delivered by professional staff and operational crews supported through a competency framework informed by best practice and responsive to the requirements of the National Framework.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

4.4 The Service continues to promote Primary Authority Partnerships through the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act (RES Act) and continues to highlight the benefits of active Primary Authority Partnerships in East Sussex to improve Fire Safety compliance and support business growth. We have many partnerships confirmed, and more being developed by our PAP Manager. We are part of the Business Advice and Support Partnership (BAASP) which is a partnership of Regulatory Services across the South East covering Trading Standards, Fire Safety, Environmental Health and Licensing. BAASP shares knowledge, resources and expertise to provide the best support and advice for local businesses as part of the wider Primary Authority landscape.

#### http://www.esfrs.org/business-safety/primary-authority-scheme/

- 4.5 The service continues to support the Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety through the NFCC and implement the recommendations of Government's Building Safety Program. This includes the new 'Gateway 1' process introduced to start to improve planning and building control processes for high-risk buildings such as 18m plus high rise residential blocks.
- 4.6 We continue to promote the findings from our fire investigations so that risk assessments better identify sources of ignition and the benefits of active and passive protection. More details can be found on the following link:

### https://www.heads-up.biz/

4.7 The Service continues to actively promote sprinklers and other new building safety initiatives such as premises information boxes, way finding signage, evacuation systems and simple measures to assist firefighters such as floor signage and plans. We continue to provide match funding to secure the installation of all these safety measures in premises identified as posing a particular risk to occupants and / or firefighters and we promote sprinklers where opportunities present themselves. More detail on sprinklers can be found by following the link below:

#### http://www.esfrs.org/business-safety/sprinklers/

4.8 We recognise that in exceptional cases; where supported by evidence and it being in the public interest, there is a need to use an appropriate sanction where fire safety standards have not been maintained by a responsible person. Not only has ESFRS developed tools to ensure a consistent and appropriate use of prosecution and Simple Caution as sanctions, we have also developed the use of Informal Cautions, which the NFCC are looking to adopt nationally.

#### http://www.esfrs.org/business-safety/business-safety-enforcement/

- 4.9 The service is a statutory consultee under a range of legislation and the Fire Safety teams will continue to ensure they respond to consultations in a positive and timely manner as detailed in the Service response charter.
- 4.10 The Central Fire Safety support team will continue to build on the Fire Safety engagement and initiatives library to enable local teams to deliver proactive and reactive business engagement activities increasing knowledge and understanding of fire safety in the business community. Typically, this involves identifying opportunities to engage and explain the requirements of the Order at face-to-face events, with supporting material available on our internet site. Through the Business Rates funded initiative, the Service provides the "Safer Business Training" scheme to further support this work.

#### https://www.esfrs.org/business-safety/introduction-to-business-fire-safety-course/

4.11 Our Protection Department has a comprehensive assurance process in place. All fire safety checks carried out by crews as checked by qualified fire safety officers. 5% of all fire safety activity is also quality assured. The performance of the department is reported regularly through to SLT and the FA.

### 4.13 Grenfell Tower Improvement Plan

- 4.14 Acknowledging the emphasis, desire and requirement for change after the publication of phase 1 of the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry, ESFRS revised its action plan in the early part of the 2021-22 business year.
- 4.15 We refined the way in which our plan identified the key priorities for change, improving governance and scrutiny and reducing risks to tolerable levels. We reviewed the 46 phase 1 recommendations and looked at all potential areas where ESFRS might be able to contribute to both community and Firefighter safety. For additional assurance, we took advice from multiple sources including the London Fire Brigade Assistant Commissioner responsible for their schedule of improvements. This resulted in the multiplication of areas of work we have chosen to address and the refined process assures our priorities and progress with confidence.
- 4.15 Progress is reported through the cross-departmental Delivery and Strategic Boards and on a quarterly basis to the Fire Authority Scrutiny and Audit Panel.
- 4.17 As planned, we completed a Building Risk Review of all premises in East Sussex and the City of Brighton and Hove. This huge undertaking met its deadline with the Home Office of 31.12.2021, resulting in an improved level of knowledge about risk in our built environment.
- 4.18 We now know the area we protect has the 5<sup>th</sup> highest number of premises considered high rise, the largest number outside of a metropolitan area. These continue to grow in number across the main conurbations of Brighton and Hove, Eastbourne and Hastings for which we remain a statutory consultee during the planning phase.
- 4.19 We also now know our area has over 5000 mid-rise premises, many of which will not be provided with the additional measures expected in purpose-built high-rise buildings. Any contact, including following incidents and exercises is used as an opportunity to update our intelligence recorded on the CRM Site-Specific Risk Information (SSRI) database. Each record is available to incident commanders using our in-cab CF33 mobile data terminals.
- 4.20 These developments in intelligence have added to improving both RBIP and SSRI maintained by both specialist Fire Safety and Station-based staff.
- 4.21 Every standard frontline fire engine, high-reach Aerial Ladder Platforms and Command Support Units carry 4 Escape Hoods. These will be used in emergency situations when specified escape routes have become compromised and therefore their use is necessary to facilitate the safe escape of residents.
- 4.22 We have revised our Fire Survival Guidance and Evacuation policy and we aim to complete face-to-face training for every member of staff by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022.
- 4.23 We are in the process of introducing a Fires in Tall Buildings (FiTB) policy following the introduction of the National Operational Guidance for FiTB. Again, face-to-face training developing on our crews and Officers existing and extensive knowledge of high-rise firefighting will improve our community and Firefighter's safety, aiming to deliver this through the remainder of 2021-22 and into 2022-23 business year.
- 4.24 Necessarily, additional equipment is being provided for every standard frontline fire engine including larger diameter hose for greater flow, additional Thermal Imaging Cameras to scan for external fire spread and Smoke Blockers that enable us to prevent heat and smoke from entering protected escape routes as well as controlling the quantity of oxygen into a compartment that is on fire.

# 5. EMERGENCY RESPONSE

"A fire and rescue authority must make provision for extinguishing fires, road traffic collisions and other emergencies by recruiting and training staff, providing services and equipment necessary efficiently to meet all normal requirements; make arrangements for dealing with calls and for summoning personnel; make arrangements for obtaining information and prevent or limit damage to property resulting from action taken"<sup>5</sup>.

### How we are assured:

- 5.1 The data from the ORR enables us to understand that our IRMP 2020 2025 accurately reflects the fire and rescue related risks now and for the foreseeable future.
- 5.2 The ability for ESFRS to effectively and efficiently discharge its statutory duties under Sections 7 and 8 of the FRS Act relies on the Service investing in a fleet of 33 frontline fire engines. These state-of-the-art vehicles are equipped with a range of tools including Breathing Apparatus with telemetry to enable the best level of supervision for our Firefighters who crew them, Compressed Air Foam generating equipment (CAFS), battery operated rescue equipment, thermal imaging cameras, gas monitoring equipment etc.

### 5.3 **Operational Planning and Policy team**

The role of our central Planning and Policy team is to plan for the highest levels of operational preparedness to enable our crews to respond effectively to all the fire and rescue related risks identified in our IRMP. Using the thematic plan which is closely aligned to the IRMP and the 24 station risk profiles, the team work closely with our crews, joint control room staff, our Engineering and Health and Safety teams and representative bodies so we are assured that they have the best appliances, equipment and resources to deal with all foreseeable incidents.

- 5.4 OP&P reported in February 2022 that of the 184-emergency response facing Policy documents maintained by ESFRS, they are 81.7% compliant with the 1941 separate areas of National Operational Guidance (NOG).
- 5.5 OP&P work with their colleagues in West Sussex, Surrey and Kent Fire and Rescue Services on a range of key areas of collaboration that the "4F" Strategic Leaders have committed to:
  - Aligned with National Operational Guidance
  - Aligned Incident Command procedures and vehicles
  - Aligned Fire Investigation procedures
  - Aligned Breathing Apparatus procedures and equipment

### 5.6 Fire Standards

Following the publication of new Fire Standards by the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) during 2021, in November, OP&P completed two gap analyses for Operational Preparedness and Operational Learning. They reported to our Assurance, Performance and Governance Group that no new areas of work were needed however there remained several ongoing projects being delivered over the IRMP period that will ultimately prove with confidence that ESFRS meet and exceed these Standards. (Chart 3)

https://www.firestandards.org/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Fire and Rescue Services Act Section 7 & 8

# Chart 3

NFCC National Fire Chiefs Council

### OPERATIONAL PREPAREDNESS FIRE STANDARD IMPLEMENTATION TOOL

								i				
	Please fill in the contact			Overall Compliance with Standard								
	Fire and Rescue Service		sex Fire an	d Rescue	Service			2	1		Compliant	
	Contact Name	Matt Elde								artial Compliant on compliant		
	Contact Email Address		<u>elder@esfr</u>	s.org				9				
	Contact Phone Number	07931 374	1983									
				Impact								
Criteria	Description	Low	Priority Medium	High	Low	Medium	High	Fully Compliant	Partically Compliant	Non Compliant	Chart	
1	Undertake all appropriate risk assessments, as required under legislation, to prepare for an operational response	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	2	0	$\bigcirc$	
2	Review existing cover models, resources, equipment and training against all appropriate risk assessments	0	1	4	1	0	4	0	5	0	$\bigcirc$	
3	Carry out capabilities-based planning to support emergency preparedness and response from a national to a local level	0	3	5	0	5	3	4	4	0	$\bigcirc$	
4	Determine their responsibilities for operational response and be fully prepared to deliver them	0	0	4	0	0	4	2	2	0	$\bigcirc$	
5	Have a health and safety policy for the operational environment that clearly outlines the responsible parties and their obligations	0	0	9	0	0	9	8	1	0	$\bigcirc$	
6	Undertake a review of how the organisation is structured and functions, to confirm its ability to support operational preparedness; if there are any gaps identified there should be a clear plan for making appropriate changes	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	$\bigcirc$	
7	Develop and embed operational policies, procedures and tailored guidance based on the National Operational Guidance, unless by evidenced exception its content is not relevant to the service	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	$\bigcirc$	
8	Deliver the strategic actions provided in the suite of National Operational Guidance, unless by evidenced exception a strategic action is not relevant to the service; the strategic gap analysis tool may be used to support this process	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	$\bigcirc$	
9	Train its operational and fire control personnel to use the hazard and control measure approach provided in the National Operational Guidance, applying risk assessment, decision- making and risk management skills	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	3	0	$\bigcirc$	
10	Align relevant policies, procedures and tailored guidance in preparation for working with other fire and rescue services or responder agencies	0	0	5	0	1	4	3	2	0	$\bigcirc$	
Total		0	5	34	1	6	32	18	21	0	$\bigcirc$	

### 5.7 Joint Fire Control

Following a robust business case that considered our requirements to be financially accountable and the wider duty to collaborate, East Sussex Fire Authority committed to a Joint Fire Control run by Surrey Fire and Rescue Service. On November 17<sup>th</sup> 2021, ESFRS closed its control room and transitioned seamlessly to the state-of-the-art Joint Fire Control centre.

### 5.8 **Fire and Rescue Stations**

ESFRS responds to an extremely wide range of emergency incidents with its fleet operating from 24 fire stations across East Sussex and the City of Brighton and Hove. Stations are crewed by operational staff who work different shift patterns depending upon local risk:

- Wholetime: firefighters operate on stations 24 hours per day, working 12 hour shifts
- Day Crewing: during the daytime the station is crewed by wholetime firefighters who also live next to the station to provide emergency cover overnight
- On-Call: firefighters live or work in the local community near to the station and respond to emergency calls via alerters

### 5.9 **Operational Resilience Plan**

A critical part of our IRMP 2020 – 2025 is the "Operational Resilience Plan" that focussed on improvements to our current response model of 15 immediately available frontline fire appliances. Its aim is to provide 18 immediately available and 6 resilience frontline appliances at the start of each day before demand. This new Policy replaces the Core Stations and Combined Crewing Policies during 2021 – 2022, better aligning resources to risk. As shown in Chart 1 workstream 1 and Chart 6 criteria 2, the agreement and implementation will necessarily roll into 2022-23.

### 5.10 **Operational Risk**

Section 7(2)(d) of the Fire and Rescue Services Act requires fire authorities to make arrangements for inspection of certain premises to obtain information for Firefighter and community safety.

5.11 As described in Section 4 above, we use the 7(2)(d) visits together with any relevant data collection methods to assist in dealing with an incident, informing command decision making and ensuring public and Firefighter safety, linking with recommendation from the Grenfell Tower phase 1 report. Following transition, this data is also available at Joint Fire Control.

#### 5.12 Incident Debriefing and Organisational Learning

Operational Assurance has been embedded into revised Service policy to organisational learning. The OP&P team review National Operational Learning (NOL) amongst 23 other information sources such as Fire Investigation reports, incident debriefs, Coroners reports etc. to ensure currency with national learning and share any learning within the Service via Core Brief or Health and Safety Bulletins if of a critically important nature and via "Assurance in Action" to spread awareness of key learning points. The process enables us to horizon scan and receive national learning reports such as the Grenfell Tower phase 1 report, the Cube fire in Manchester and the Manchester Arena bombing etc.

5.13 As with SSRI and RBIP, the Operational Assurance (OA) process now sits in the CRM database as the central repository of OA actions that can be received from 24 specific sources. The OA section have started to populate CRM with these prompts after analysis, and any actions such as reviewing of risk assessments, policies etc. are sent to the relevant managers to task and finish.

#### 5.14 Internal Audits and Assessments

East Sussex County Council's Internal Audit provides our internal audit service, independently assessing the effectiveness of our governance, risk management and internal control arrangements. Internal Audit supports the role of the Scrutiny & Audit Panel. An annual internal audit plan is agreed by the Scrutiny & Audit Panel following consultation between the Senior Leadership Team and Internal Audit about the risk priorities and the results of this work is then reported back to the Panel. Individual reports on our systems are evaluated by internal audit and include recommendations to enhance controls, and then action plans are developed to address and implement audit recommendations.

- 5.15 The results of these internal audit reviews and the Head of Internal Audit's Annual Opinion are reported to the Scrutiny and Audit Panel.
- 5.16 **Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS)** We continue to review our operational preparedness, policies and procedures ready for our third inspection in June - July 2022. Inspection reports are published specifying areas for improvement such as operational effectiveness, culture, protection and use of resources.
- 5.17 The Service uses the outcomes of the HMICFRS inspections to ensure our service wide improvement agenda continues to make progress, measured at the Senior Leadership Team and Operations Committee as appropriate.

### 5.18 **Coronavirus Pandemic**

Our second inspection by HMICFRS was held virtually during the Coronavirus pandemic and second national lockdown. The processes put in place to effectively manage and lead our Service with no adverse impact to our response model was thanks to an early decision through the Sussex Resilience Forum to declare a major emergency. We convened weekly Emergency Management Team meetings, overseeing risk-based processes to assure our workplaces remained COVID secure, giving our Firefighters the best level of protection. Processes include internal track and trace and Station deep-clean overseen at tactical level daily by our COVID Working Group. This body of evidence enabled HMICFRS Inspectors to commend how ESFRS had and continued to cope with the pandemic. Following Government guidance, ESFRS relaxed its risk-based regime that stood our employees in good stead throughout the last two years on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022, where masks and track-and-trace are no longer a requirement, moving the workforce with confidence into a state of normality.

5.19 Through good record keeping and between the multi-agency Sussex Resilience Forum and inhouse C19 debriefs, ESFA remain in a high state of readiness if new variants emerge once more.

#### 5.20 Station Audits

All 24 Stations were audited in accordance with extant Policy over a 24 month period January – December. Following the conclusion of each inspection, outcomes are discussed with line managers at the time and then accessibly recorded on our computer network for the relevant managers and teams to maintain and improve.

- 5.21 In late 2021-22, the Station audit process was revised to cut down the quantity of duplication where compliance is recorded elsewhere and on more frequent basis than once every two years. The new process will see all 24 Stations audited in 12 months and in line with the business calendar, focusing specifically on operational preparedness and Firefighter safety.
  - •
  - Risk information gathering
  - Observed practice during themed exercises
  - Demonstration of new policy and procedure
  - Knowledge of Operational Assurance publications/ activities
  - Health and Safety including thematic sampling
- 5.22 The audit team always give verbal feedback during the station audit followed by a report which is sent to the Group and Station Manager responsible for the workplace that has been audited and a copy to the Assistant Chief Fire Officer. The report contains the rating scored against each examined area.

#### 5.23 **Operations Committee**

The ACFO chairs an Operations Committee that considers corporate operational assurance, operational readiness, performance, policy, practice and training. This committee ensures that the Service is managing the oversight and delivery of all its responsibilities in respect of emergency response operations and has the necessary systems and policies to ensure adoption of good practice and compliance with statutory responsibilities. The Operations Committee reviews operational performance including the outcomes of national, regional and local incident debriefs along with the outcomes from the ESFRS station audit and inspection programme.

# 6. OTHER EMERGENCIES

The requires ESFRS to make arrangements for dealing with emergencies other than fires and road traffic collisions which may require some functions to be discharged outside the authority's area.<sup>6</sup> The duties require authorities, where provision of resources has been made by central government, to respond to incidents, both within and outside the authority area, involving Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear hazards, Urban Search and Rescue and serious or wide-area flooding.<sup>7</sup>

The Order made under Section 9, complements the National Mutual Assistance Protocol, to which we are a signatory. This requires fire authorities to make a reasonable response to requests for assistance in relation to any large-scale emergency outside of their area.

# How we are assured:

- 5.1 ESFRS maintain two specialist assets to enable us to deal with both local and national incidents of the type described above.
- 5.2 We house a Mass Decontamination Unit (MDU) at Eastbourne Fire Station that is crewed and supported if required by staff from surrounding stations to manage the decontamination of Firefighters and large numbers of people if necessary. ESFRS also house a High-Volume Pump set (HVP) now based at Seaford Fire Station following the requirements of the IRMP 2020 2025 workstream 16, crewed 24/7 with a combination of primarily On-call staff. With wholetime who choose to maintain their skills. that consists of two large prime movers with two demountable modules.
- 5.3 A self-assessment of the MDU using nationally published performance criteria, resulted in zero areas of non-compliance in August October 2021, with findings submitted to the National Resilience Assurance Team (NRAT).
- 5.4 A further self-assessment and full inspection of the HVP set by NRAT inspectors on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021 identified a wide range of areas for improvement prior-to and during the move from Hove to Seaford. All areas bar two remain outstanding which have been referred by ESFRS managers to NRAT for resolution with the Environment Agency. These relate to large scale areas for secure decontamination and the containment and recovery of run-off post emergency phase of an incident.

### 5.5 **The Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles (JESIP)**

ESFRS and blue-light partners have delivered joint command training to commanders from all three emergency services to improve the way we work together. The concept is embedded into our risk assessments and guidance and under normal circumstances outside of Coronavirus restrictions, we aim to test and exercise jointly in realistic environments. Plans to exercise in the virtual environment have proven difficult to realise, however this avenue remains is certain to become the norm as SRF members plan multi-agency tabletop exercises (MATTE) into their business plan, requiring all commanders from all services to attend at least 1 every 3 years.

5.6 We have signed a range of Memorandums of Understanding with partner agencies with the overriding premise of enhancing each other's resilience. The list of MoU's can be evidenced on our intranet page using the following link:

### https://esfrsorg.sharepoint.com/sites/ESFRSIntranet/SitePages/Memorandums-of-Understanding-(MOUs).aspx

5.7 A Service Level Agreement (SLA) has been drafted between the 4 Fire and Rescue Services covered by SECAmb, with a generic statement for collaborative working being signed in March 2022. The SLA has a range of appendices requiring separate signature depending on the position for each signatory at that time e.g. Gaining entry, IEC, Co-responding, Frailty and Falls etc.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Fire and Rescue Services (Emergencies) Order 2007

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Fire and Rescue Services Act Section 9

# 7. MUTUAL AID

Fire and Rescue authorities are required to enter into reinforcement schemes with other fire and rescue authorities, for securing mutual assistance. Section 16 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act enables fire and rescue authorities to enter into arrangements for the discharge of their functions by others.<sup>8</sup>

### How we are assured

- 6.1 ESFRS have a Section 16 agreement in place for Surrey Fire and Rescue Service to discharge our duties for handling emergency calls. We also have a collaboration agreement with Surrey Fire and Rescue Service and West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service along with a confidentiality agreement for suppliers.
- 6.2 ESFRS have also entered into a series of key Memorandum's of Understanding (MoU's) with selected partners where there are mutual benefits to both organisations in the interests of efficiency and effectiveness. These include:

South-East Coast Ambulance	Gaining entry						
Service	Immediate Emergency Care						
	Hazardous Area Response Team interoperability						
	Covid-19 Vaccine Programme						
Environment Agency	Co-operation for Flood response						
	Pollution Incident Prevention and Mitigation						
	Preventing Waste and Industry site fires						
UK Power Networks	Specific working protocols in order that incidents						
	requiring firefighting and/or response (incidents)						
	are dealt with in a systematic and effective manner						
Sussex and Surrey Police	Drone operations						
	Fire and Arson Investigation						
	Explosives – Information sharing						
Police/ SECAmb/ WSFRS	Inter-Agency Liaison Officers - Information and						
	intelligence sharing						
Kent and Medway Fire Authority	Large Animal Rescues						
HM Maritime and Coastguard	Interoperability & training						
Agency							
Coroners Society of England and	Constructive co-operation						
Wales							
Operation Florian	Transfer of appliances and equipment						
Multiple agencies	Work-related death protocols						

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Fire and Rescue Services Act Sections 13 & 16; Civil Contingencies Act 2004; Policing and Crime Act 2017

# 8. HEALTH & SAFETY ASSURANCE

The Health, Safety & Wellbeing team continue to give advice to all employees on matters of health and safety, as well as advising managers on legal compliance, policy formulation, training and safety performance monitoring activities.

The effective management of health and safety, leading to fewer accidents involving injury and time taken off work, is beneficial to staff and an investment which helps ESFRS achieve the high standards which the people of East Sussex and Brighton & Hove have come to expect. We are fully committed to achieving the government targets for health and safety laid out in the document "Revitalising Health and Safety".

### How we are assured

- 7.1 Each employee will be given information, instruction and training as is necessary to enable the safe performance of their work activities. Adequate facilities and arrangements have been developed and are well embedded in Policy and training to enable employees and their representatives to raise issues of health and safety at work since it is via an effective partnership that successful health and safety management can best be achieved.
- 7.2 ESFRS has had a H&S management system and is developing its system based on Health & Safety Executive (HSE) guidance to become far more robust and user-friendly. There are clearly defined management responsibilities and the Authority assesses and manages the risks arising from its activities, consults its employees on matters affecting H&S, and provides training and information to employees. Its policies have allowed a good health and safety culture through open and no-surprises relationship with its staff and Trade Unions, recognised in the Health, Safety & Wellbeing Committee and active Workplace Safety Representative meetings.
- 7.3 The Authority has introduced an electronic management system to support the reporting and investigation of all accidents and near misses that occur and to track the investigations conducted with the intention of preventing a recurrence.
- 7.4 As part of the H&S Management System there is a programme of audits and inspections. The audits are based on the Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents Quality Safety Audit system and its performance indicators. These audits and inspections inform the annual review of H&S Policy and performance. They also contribute towards an Annual Health and Safety report submitted to the Authority's Scrutiny and Audit Panel.
- 7.5 During the Coronavirus pandemic, the Health and Safety team have been central to advising the COVID Working Group, development and maintenance of its organisational and individual workplace risk assessments all in line with Government guidance. The success of these can be measured by the limited impact to the availability of our crews and vehicles ready for immediate emergency deployment and our day-to-day prevention, protection and operational preparedness activities.
- 7.6 ESFRS has an Occupational Health team that works collaboratively with Surrey and Sussex Police Service to support the health and wellbeing of staff. ESFRS has also introduced a Trauma Risk Management (TRiM) process that continues to develop as managers and staff understand the benefits. The ACFO is currently the National Fire Chief Councils Mental Health Lead and there are two active mental health campaigns accessed via our Heath, Safety and Wellbeing intranet webpages; "Healthy Mind" and "Healthy Body".

# 9. CIVIL CONTINGENCIES ACT 2004

Under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 fire and rescue authorities, through local and regional resilience forums where appropriate, must work in co-operation with other emergency services and agencies to ensure an effective response to a full range of emergencies from localised incidents to catastrophic emergencies.

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service are a category 1 responder under the Civil Contingences Act 2004. We are required to formulate business continuity plans that ensure the continuation of our priority activities in the event of an emergency (an event or situation that threatens serious damage to human welfare in a place in the UK, the environment of a place in the UK or war or terrorism which threatens serious damage to the security of the UK). We are also required to consider these risks in planning what resources we need to prevent their occurrence, protect life, premises and the environment from the effects and respond to them in the event they occur.

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/preparation-and-planning-for-emergencies-responsibilities-of-responderagencies-and-others

### How we are assured

- 8.1 A cross-service Assurance, Performance and Governance Group (APGG) oversees the Service's responsibilities in relation to business continuity and this is chaired by The Deputy Chief Fire Officer. All Service departments maintain their business continuity plans that are available on our intranet and each department Manager has responsibility for ensuring their staff are aware of the potential impacts and activities in the event that any identified hazard emerges.
- 8.2 We have agreed levels of operational service that ensure our defined prioritised activities can be delivered so far as is reasonably practicable. These are:
  - Delivering community & statutory fire safety (Preventing emergencies as our primary priority);
  - Responding to 999 emergencies (and learning from them to prevent re-occurrence);
  - Supporting national resilience (in other Counties at larger, more protracted incidents) and;
  - All support functions that enable the above

Further details on how we plan for emergencies can be found here:

https://www.esfrs.org/about-us/publication-of-information/strategies-plans-and-performanceinformation/planning-for-emergencies/

- 8.3 The Sussex Resilience Forum (SRF) is a multi-agency partnership made up of representatives from local public services, including the blue-light emergency services, local authorities, the NHS, the Environment Agency and other partners. These risks can affect the economy, cause disruption and impact on the day to day lives of our community and therefore understanding these risks within the County and the City provides a clearly defined baseline for us to develop our provision of service to the community we serve.
- 8.4 ESFRS is an active leading partner of the Sussex Resilience Forum (SRF) and as such continues to horizon scan all risks linked to the national risk register. The SRF maintain specific risk plans relating to the UK's exit from the European Union. ESFRS consider the risk to heritage sites, the environment and the continuing risk from terrorism within its IRMP. The National Risk Assessment is given careful consideration by the SRF and the Service to monitor any new risks identified through these processes.
- 8.5 ESFRS consider the wider risk assessments included within the SRF's Community Risk Register (CRR) in our IRMP to ensure that proposed changes to our service delivery complement, as far as possible, the strategies of other local responders and central government agencies. We make significant contributions to the preparation, planning and response to a wide range of events that are considered as part of the CRR. The Coronavirus pandemic presented particular challenges to

the SRF and ESFRS led the command and control of all agencies to ensure the continued flow of freight traffic to the continent over the Christmas and New Year period 2020-2021.

- 8.6 We also plan for, and occasionally respond to, incidents of such scale and/or complexity that local resources may be insufficient even when taking into account mutual aid agreements. ESFRS's allocation includes a MDU at Eastbourne Fire Station and following the ORR, the HVP is being relocated to Seaford Fire Station without detriment to service/national availability.
- 8.7 ESFRS will take all reasonable steps to ensure that in the event of a service interruption, agreed mission critical services will be maintained and normal services restored, as soon as reasonably possible. To ensure that this happens, it is Service policy to have in place robust business continuity recovery plans that are regularly reviewed and tested, and key staff appropriately trained to manage these procedures.
- 8.8 For a short-term disruption, Directorate Heads will lead on recovery arrangements as detailed within the various Business Continuity Plans in place. For long term/corporate level disruptions, a formal Emergency Management Team (EMT) will be stood up to manage the recovery; this will be overseen by a Strategic level manager. ESFRS plan biannual Emergency Management Team exercises to test the latest major loss of staff plans the lessons learned will be incorporated into a final revision of the business continuity plan.
- 8.9 The ESFRS Business Continuity Management process aligns to the requirements of the ISO 22301 Standard. All Directorate and Departmental continuity plans have been reviewed and remain current, published on our intranet under the Operational Support and Resilience directorate webpage.

# 10. LOCALISM ACT 2011

The Localism Act takes as its starting point the existing statutory powers of fire and rescue authorities and then gives the Fire Authority the power to do:

- Anything they consider appropriate for the purposes of carrying out their functions
- Anything they consider appropriate for purposes incidental to carrying out their functions
- Anything they consider appropriate for purposes indirectly incidental to carrying out their functions

It also added three new sections to the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, which allows Fire and Rescue Authorities to place a charging policy in support of its strategy to deal with unwanted fire signals received from automatic fire detection systems. The charging power allows us a level of discretion in that we may decide not to charge at all, as is the case now, or we may charge different amounts to different groups of recipients when we respond to specific categories of calls.

### How we are assured:

- 9.1 ESFRS maintains a Memorandum of Understanding with Kent & Medway Fire Authority which sees the Service undertaking large animal rescues on behalf of Kent across a large area of Kent and for which the Service is able to charge.
- 9.2 Under section 38(1) of the Act we are required to prepare a Pay Policy Statement. The Authority is responsible for ensuring that that the pay policy statement sets out the issues relating to the pay of the workforce and in particular the senior officers and the lowest paid employees. This ensures that there is the appropriate accountability and transparency of the salaries of our senior staff. The purpose of the statement is to provide greater transparency on how taxpayers' money is used in relation to the pay and rewards for public sector staff.

For more information please use the following link:

https://www.esfrs.org/about-us/publication-of-information/