

Summary Report to Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee 12th October 2017

At the Council meeting in May 2015, Council agreed to make it a requirement that the Council nominee(s) to four specific outside bodies shall submit summary reports to the Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee. The specific bodies identified were: -

- Essex Fire Authority
- Southend University Hospital - NHS Foundation Trust
- Essex Police and Crime Panel
- Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority

In your response, please indicate which Group / Body this report relates to.
Notes:-

- *Where there is more than one nominee, a joint report shall be submitted.*
- *Council has agreed that updates shall be submitted to every other ordinary meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.*

Last update January 2017

Name of Group / Body:- **Essex Fire Authority** Update on Key Issues

“The end of September marked the end of an era for the Essex Fire Authority which was formed nearly 20years ago in 1998. In the time that has elapsed much has changed in society and the Fire and Rescue Service has had to evolve to meet the changing expectations of a range of stakeholders, not least those of the public that they are there to serve.

It is without doubt that the Fire and Rescue Service in Essex is better, safer, more efficient and effective than it was 10 or even 5 years ago. It now has:

1. Better and newer fire engines
2. Better and newer rescue equipment
3. Better and newer breathing apparatus
4. A more diverse range of community safety services that are preventing incidents from occurring and protecting people when incidents occur
5. Better and newer height vehicles
6. Better and a more diverse range of special appliances
7. Better, safer and more effectively managed fire fighting PPE

8. A more effective and efficient headquarters that is fit for purpose and has potential to meet expanding demands
9. A more efficient and effective ICT infrastructure
10. A more efficient and effective mobilising Control Centre
11. Better facilities and property standards on the majority of fire stations
12. An improved organisation that is continually evolving

Having now handed over the responsibility of the fire and rescue service in a joint administration with the police to the Police and Crime Commissioner it is imperative that the collaboration and expertise continues so that the people of Essex feel safe in their homes and on the streets.”

Person / Persons Making Response:

Councillor Ron Woodley

Date 2nd October 2017