

13 EMERGENCY SERVICES

OVERVIEW

13.1 This chapter of the IDP is concerned with key emergency services, which includes the police and fire and rescue services. As with other parts of the public sector, there has been substantial restructuring in service delivery to not only respond to changes in resources but also the increasingly challenges of societal demands. The ambulance service is treated separately under the chapter on health infrastructure.

13.2 Research on the future of policing in the UK identifies a number of new policing realities¹:

- policing takes place in a fully digital world, which influence crime recording, the application of digital technology and data;
- funding realities where private investment in crime prevention (for example cyber-crime) outweigh those of the state struggling to fund health, care and pensions expenditure;
- extreme pace of change with constant business innovation creating new criminal opportunities;
- advanced technology and knowledge management are essential for reducing crime and managing police services, and
- operating with near total transparency due to increasing surveillance by the public and police.

Driven by resourcing pressures and modern policing challenges, various operating models have been adopted including cross-force collaborations, government agency collaborations and shared multi-agency facilities.

13.3 The role of the fire service is also changing. There have been well documented calls for continuous improvement and cost reductions but significant improvements in community fire safety by local brigades have resulted in a large fall in the number of fire-related incidents. In 2009/10, fire and rescue services attended 830,161 fire-related incidents across Great Britain. By 2015/16, this had fallen to 654,571. The average age of firefighters is likely to increase with the proposed implementation of later retirement and this could have implications for the typical levels of health, fitness and experience among firefighters. In addition, changes in geographic population density, road use and

¹ Deloitte – Policing 4.0 Deciding the future of policing in the UK

improvements in home safety continue to affect both the nature and quantity of demand for fire and rescue services².

EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE, GAPS AND PROGRAMMES

Police

- 13.4 The Police and Crime Plan for Essex³ sets out seven policing priorities to protect the county, namely:
- more local, visible and accessible policing;
 - crack down on anti-social behavior;
 - breaking the cycle of domestic abuse;
 - reverse the trend in serious violence;
 - tackle gangs and organised crime;
 - protecting children and vulnerable people, and
 - improve safety on our roads.
- 13.5 At its launch in 2016, the plan indicated a need to make spending cuts of between £10-12 million. The plan recognised that the current Essex Police property estate includes 80 buildings in a poor state of repair which will require £30 million of maintenance work to bring up to standard and expenditure of almost £2 million a year just to maintain the current condition. Based on careful analysis the plan was to reduce the estate to 30 buildings strategically placed around Essex. The force also needed a Headquarters that is modern and fit for purpose both now and for the next 20 years.
- 13.6 The implications for Brentwood Borough include the disposal of the former Police HQ building on London Road and integration of local policing infrastructure within Brentwood Town Hall. Uniformed officers who are currently based at the station – including community and local policing teams - will continue to have a presence in the town and will in future work from a shared hub at the Town Hall in Ingrave Road.

Fire and Rescue Services

- 13.7 The Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS) manages fire risk across Essex. The purpose of the ECFRS is to protect and save life, property and the environment and serves a population of over 1.7m and 1,400 square miles. On average the service attends over 14000 incidents a year. The current service is

² Commentary from Nicola Bateman, Karen Maher and Ray Randall 'Drivers of change in the UK Fire Service: an operations management perspective'.

³ <http://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/what-we-are-doing/police-and-crime-plan/>

staffed by approximately 1,215 firefighters (735 wholetime and 480 retained), 46 Control personnel and 266 support staff. The service headquarters are at Kelevedon Park, Rivenhall and of the 51 fire stations within the operational area, 1 is located in Brentwood Town (Station 51 - wholetime and retained) and a retained crew at Ingatestone (Station 67).

- 13.8 The ECFRS Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) forms part of the approach to identifying, accessing and managing risk in Essex. It is a strategic document and indicates a changing picture of risk within Essex. This includes:
- Flooding – flooding events and the risk of flooding is becoming more frequent as weather patterns continue to change.
 - Industrial incidents – planning effectively to manage major industrial incidents.
 - Transport incidents – responding quickly and effectively to road, rail, air and sea incidents and recognising the commuting linkages between Essex and London.
 - Major chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive attacks – the likelihood of major incidents or attacks of this nature has increased and has taken on a new focus.
 - Human disease – pandemic influenza and other contagious diseases offer a significant risk to the public.

IMPLICATIONS OF GROWTH

- 13.9 Discussions have taken place with Essex Police (Estates) over the implications of the Local Plan early in the plan formulation stage, but the Council is awaiting the outcome of detailed considerations on the implications of growth for local policing. S.106 / CIL contributions and examples of appeal decisions relating to police contributions for infrastructure have traditionally identified the need for staff, equipment, back office facilities and various types of operating infrastructure including drop in hubs.⁴
- 13.11 Discussions have also take place with Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, but no specific infrastructure requirements have been identified to date.
- 13.12 While too early to consider in detail, and along similar lines to healthcare infrastructure, there may be specific ITC requirements arising from the use and exchange of information, necessitating effective and secure high capacity broadband infrastructure.

⁴ [https://www.stratford.gov.uk/files/policy/HearingStatementsH-N/HS-63%20-%20Warwickshire%20Police%20and%20West%20Mercia%20Police%20\(4549-1\)%20-%20Matter%20I%20-%20Appendix%201.pdf](https://www.stratford.gov.uk/files/policy/HearingStatementsH-N/HS-63%20-%20Warwickshire%20Police%20and%20West%20Mercia%20Police%20(4549-1)%20-%20Matter%20I%20-%20Appendix%201.pdf)

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 13.13 With the local plan proposing a new settlement and major urban extensions it is prudent to plan for potentially new multi-use and multi-agency space within new and existing community facilities. In terms of Dunton Hills this may include planning new community facilities to provide capacity for drop-in or flexible operational police space. It would also be wise to set aside a working budget within the IDP for enhanced local policing until further information is supplied.

Revision Schedule – Chapter 13	
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