



Essex County  
Fire & Rescue Service

# Essex County Fire and Rescue Service Productivity and Efficiency Plan

2024/25



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## 1. Introduction and Background

The purpose of this document is for Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS) to set its productivity and efficiency plan for 2024/25

The [National Framework](#) requires combined and metropolitan Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) to produce and publish efficiency plans. The Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire require our Service to produce a plan that covers both planned efficiencies and increasing productivity.

As part of the current spending review, the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and the Local Government Association (LGA) have agreed commitments that between 2021/22 and 2024/25, fire and rescue services (FRS) in England will:

- Create non-pay efficiencies of 2% per annum.
- Increase productivity by 3% in the period 2021/22 to 2024/25 (calculated on wholetime firefighter hours).

Our plan explains how our Service aims to deliver efficiencies and increased productivity against these NFCC Sector commitments.

A key objective of the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC), as stated in the 2019 to 2024 Fire and Rescue Plan, is to improve the safety of the people of Essex by making the best use of resources and ensuring value for money.

As part of achieving this, the PFCC has challenged our service to deliver annual productivity and efficiency improvement of between 1.5% to 3% of the net budget requirement each year.

This challenge has been essential in making sure:

- our investment in prevention and protection work has measurable targets and achieves agreed outcomes
- we use new technology and business processes to improve service efficiency
- we make more effective use of our estate including sharing and rationalising with our partners
- we explore and develop further opportunities to collaborate.

Through our Service Leadership Team and the Productivity and Efficiency Board, we will aim to regularly update and report on the progress of this plan. We will also work to create a longer-term plan aligned with our Community Risk Management Plan 2025-2029.

## 2. Budget and Reserves

ECFRS has a net budget of £94.9m for 2024/25. A summary of the 2024/25 Revenue Budget is shown below. The budget for 2024/25 includes an increase in the council tax precept of £2.34 (2.91%) for a Band D property. The precept payable for a Band D Council tax property will increase from £80.28 to £82.62. Further details of the 2024/25 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy can be found here at the following links: [2024-25 Budget](#) and [MTFS](#)

### 2024/25 Revenue Budget

	2024/25 Core Budget £'000s	2024/25 Earmarked Reserve £'000s	2024/25 Total Budget £'000s
Wholetime Firefighters	39,134	0	39,134
On-Call Firefighters	9,544	0	9,544
Control	2,304	0	2,304
Support Staff	19,353	71	19,424
Ill Health Pension costs	2,581	0	2,581
<b>Total Employment Costs</b>	<b>72,916</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>72,987</b>
Support Costs	1,884	250	2,134
Premises & Equipment	11,978	374	12,352
Other Costs & Services	3,462	431	3,893
Financing Items	5,459	150	5,609
<b>Non Pay Costs</b>	<b>22,783</b>	<b>1,205</b>	<b>23,988</b>
<b>Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>95,699</b>	<b>1,276</b>	<b>96,974</b>
Operational income	(2,059)	0	(2,059)
<b>Total Operational Income</b>	<b>(2,059)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(2,059)</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>93,639</b>	<b>1,276</b>	<b>94,915</b>
Government Grants	(6,185)	0	(6,185)
Revenue Support Grant	(13,835)	0	(13,835)
National Non-Domestic Rates	(17,921)	0	(17,921)
Council Tax Collection Account	(300)	0	(300)
Council Tax	(55,398)	0	(55,398)
Contributions to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	0	(1,276)	(1,276)
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>(93,639)</b>	<b>(1,276)</b>	<b>(94,915)</b>

The table below shows a summary of our Service’s useable reserves as per the 2024/25 Reserves Strategy.

### Summary table of reserves

	Actual Balance at 31 March 2023* £'000s	Projected Balance at 31 March 2024 £'000s	Projected Balance at 31 March 2025 £'000s	Projected Balance at 31 March 2026 £'000s	Projected Balance at 31 March 2027 £'000s
General Reserves	3,882	3,344	3,344	3,344	3,344
Earmarked Reserves	7,108	5,073	3,798	3,443	3,443
<b>Total General and Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>10,990</b>	<b>8,417</b>	<b>7,142</b>	<b>6,787</b>	<b>6,787</b>
Capital Receipts Reserves	15,740	12,256	10,456	6,206	706
<b>Total Usable Reserves</b>	<b>26,730</b>	<b>20,673</b>	<b>17,598</b>	<b>12,993</b>	<b>7,493</b>

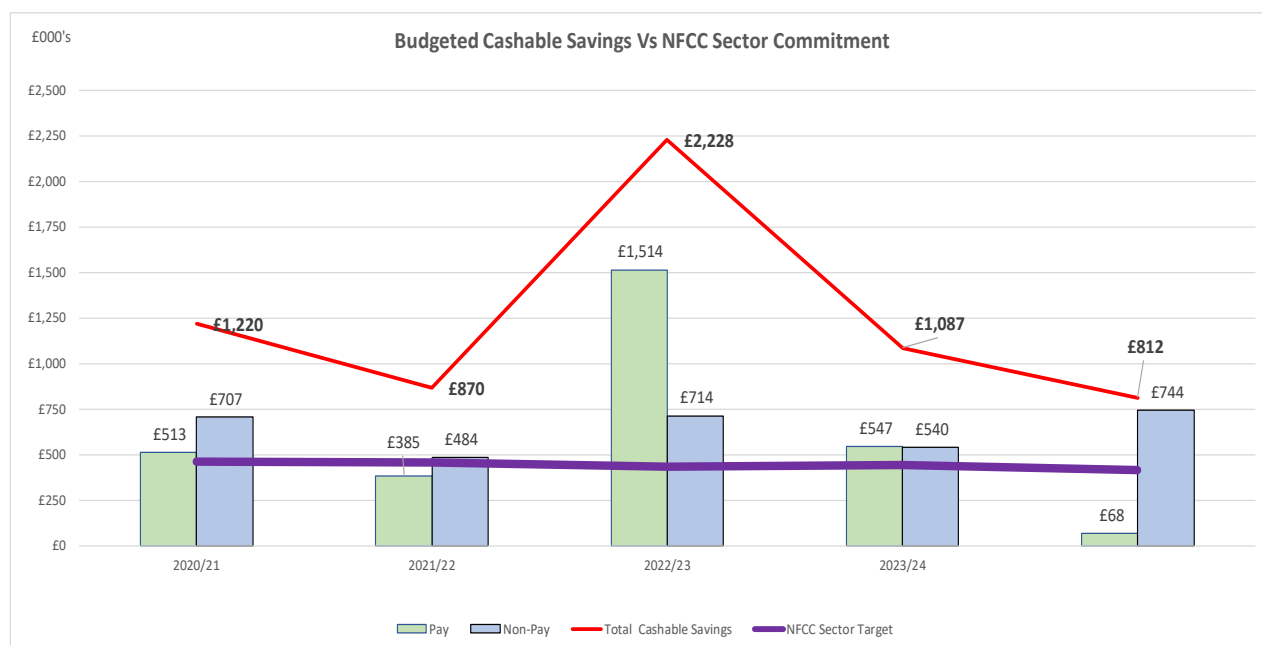
\*Per unaudited financial statements

The Capital Receipts Reserve is governed by regulations which means it can only be used for specific purposes. The 2024/25 Reserves Strategy can be found at [Reserves Strategy 2024-25](#).

### 3. Efficiency

ECFRS tracks its performance against the NFCC Sector Commitment of 2% Non-Pay Efficiencies per year through its Productivity and Efficiency Board.

Since 2020/21, our Service has consistently achieved higher cashable efficiencies than the NFCC Sector target. This is shown in the table below.



There has been a £0.9m reduction in the minimum revenue provision since 2020/21. In order to achieve this, our Service has reviewed how long it keeps fire appliances, produced its first capital strategy which has taken a much more progressive stance to using its capital receipts reserve and by tightening the capital programme.

Our service has also generated more cashable efficiencies by selling additional goods. This includes £7m for the sale of day crew housing. We plan to reinvest these funds back into the other service capital projects which is outlined in Capital Strategy. We expect to use £1.8m of capital receipts in 2024/25 to fund the capital programme. This means our service can continue its minimum revenue provision at the same level as the 2023/24, otherwise this would have resulted in a £0.3m financial pressure.

£0.8m of savings have been included within the 2024/25 budget:

- £0.3m reduction in various pay and non-pay budgets (e.g. ICT goods / Property planned works and recruitment costs after launching our new Applicant Tracking System).
- £0.15m resulting from increases in income (fleet maintenance work, hydrant testing and aerial sites).
- £0.35m generated from additional interest received. This income is impacted interest rates, but the Authority changed its cashflow tracking in 2023/24 to so it could maximise the returns it could make in line with its Treasury Management Strategy. This is reported monthly within the finance reporting pack.

## **Transformation plans**

ECFRS governs its transformation programme through the Portfolio Management Board (PMB).

The PMB is responsible for approving both the inclusion and prioritisation of projects and programmes into the portfolio of change. This board monitors the delivery of the change activity along with prioritising resources required across the projects and programmes.

The portfolio of change is split into the following five programmes which are key strategic areas for our Service:

- Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP)
- Digital and Data
- People
- Prevention, Protection and Response
- Estates

These are the key transformational projects within each programme:

Programme	Transformation project	Description
<b>Data and Digital</b>	Control System Phase 2	<p>Following the launch of a new mobilising system on 1 August 2023, we are now able to begin other frontline technology improvements. These include replacing the Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) and station end equipment which will allow improved real-time communication between firefighters, command centres and other emergency response units.</p> <p>We are looking to integrate a Dynamic Cover Tool (DCT) into the control room that will provide real time recommendations on the most efficient and effective use of resources. This will improve resource use and allocation and help to make sure we use the best resources in the right place at the right time.</p> <p>This project is expected to run for two years.</p>
<b>Data and Digital</b>	Finance System	<p>In 2023/24 we obtained a new finance system which we will begin using on 1 April 2024.</p> <p>This new system is Software as a service (SaaS), which allows users to connect to and use cloud-based apps over the Internet. This will improve and streamline transactional processes and will make financial reporting easier and more efficient.</p> <p>The new finance system also has an electronic expense system, which will be rolled out by September 2024. This will mean expense claim submissions can move from paper based to electronic and remove petty cash.</p>
<b>People</b>	Applicant Tracking System	<p>The new Applicant Tracking System launched in 2023/24.</p> <p>Simpler processes mean it takes less time to use and manage, and this will continue throughout 2024. It has moved from three systems to a single platform which results in 2-hours less time spent on every application in addition to the savings of £20,000.</p> <p>Further improvement to the onboarding process is planned for a future phase in 2024/25.</p>



<b>People</b>	Operational Command Assessment and Training (OCAT)	<p>We have planned a capital investment of £150,000 in 2024/25. The current Hydra technology allows an immersive learning environment, which takes the form of virtual reality and delivers effective Incident command training and assessment and is used collaboratively with other Services. The current technology is no longer supported and requires regular 'downtime'. The investment allows the continued use of immersive learning across the Service.</p> <p>The use of immersive learning is being expanded. Historically it has been used to prepare participants for Incident Command; the technology is also now being used to provide immersive People Management training for new Watch Managers.</p>
<b>Prevention, Protection and Response</b>	Resource Management Unit	<p>Our operational availability, including flexi-duty rota, is now managed through a single team called the Resource Management Unit (RMU) which began in 2023/24.</p> <p>To support the introduction of the RMU, we are working on a workforce management system to forecast and pre-plan in response to expected demand (for example expected extreme weather and leave periods). By combining all activity, removing manual processes and predicting and deploying, we will reduce shortfalls and use our resources in the most efficient, effective and productive way to provide the best service possible to our communities.</p> <p>Following the introduction of the RMU we have already seen reductions in appliance standby moves and changes to guidance and policies. We expect to see further benefits once we introduce a new workforce management system.</p>
<b>Prevention, Protection &amp; Response</b>	Review of Flexi Officer Rota	<p>This review was finished in January 2024.</p> <p>The review considered how best to provide robust and resilient Flexi Officer cover in the most efficient and effective way.</p> <p>Recommendations from the review are now being taken into our Community Risk Management Plan, as part of wider look at efficient and effective balances of resource to risk. Recommendations are also informing the ongoing annual leave policy review.</p>
<b>Estates</b>	Live Fire Training Relocation	<p>We are looking to invest in a modern and innovative central training centre to be located at the existing headquarters site, with £10m currently being earmarked as part of the Capital Program.</p> <p>We need to move from the existing Wethersfield Ministry of Defence site by the end of 2026. We expect to finish the full business case by the end of 2024.</p>
<b>Estates</b>	Wholetime Station Modernisation	<p>We are planning to invest in the modernisation of our wholetime fire stations and this will see the creation of individual private spaces, modern training room facilities, modern rest/wellbeing areas and</p>

		improvements in the overall decor/air conditioning of buildings. The funding to complete the wholetime station modernisation work spans over several financial years.
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## Asset management and investment in technology

### Asset management – vehicles

We are carrying out key projects to make sure our vehicles are prepared and used as best as they can be. These include:

- **Vehicle telematics** – This will provide data on vehicle usage rates so we can assess of demand versus requirement. We expect this will result in reducing the current size of our fleet between 10-20%. It will assist with improving the efficiency of fleet maintenance and downtime, improving availability of resources.
- **Asset tracking** – We are considering investment in a new tracking system for operational vehicle equipment assets. This will reduce the amount of lost/misplaced items that can be costly to replace and improve the equipment maintenance and repair programmes.
- **Fully kitted spare appliances** – We are looking to move to a new model of fully kitted spare appliances. The purpose of this is to minimise the time it takes to transfer operational equipment from an in-use appliance to spare appliance. This will also undo the need for on-call crews to attend service workshops when their appliance requires any repairs or maintenance. The current average for each appliance changeover can take between 3-5 hours.

### Asset Management – Estates

- **Strategic asset management plan (SAMP)** - We are identifying opportunities to maximise the way we use land/space as an opportunity for capital receipts. Our Service will be commissioning external land management specialists to assess different site opportunities. The SAMP is there to make sure we use our estate to full benefit and that our workspace/buildings are used in the most efficient and effective way.

It is imperative that our buildings and workplaces are maintained to a high functional standard. To assist with this our Service is undertaking key improvements that will assist with greater knowledge of our building assets, which include:

- **Building condition surveys** - This will now become fully digitised and will run over a four-year period with a quarter of our stock being assessed each year. This will enhance the way we are able to manage our capital asset improvements programme and free up people resources to focus on delivery rather than assessment.
- **Energy consumption** - Smart metering/buildings management platform that allows digital review of our buildings to optimise energy consumption and usage rates. With the unpredictable fluctuation of energy pricing, it is essential that we understand our

consumption rates which will allow us to focus on which sites require future investment and improvement to make the building/s run more effectively.

### **ICT asset management**

The ICT Team has been working through the delivery of our Digital and Data Strategy and one of the areas for improvement was the renewal and upgrade of our broadband to each site. We have now replaced all copper-based connections with full fibre broadband to each site. This has improved the connectivity and internet speeds allowing for quicker uploading and downloading of key information and supported the roll out of eLearning. This has now provided our Service with a more efficient ICT Network Infrastructure that will improve our future ICT software. It has improved user experience and with the roll out of digital skills masterclasses it means that the use of new technology is improving.

## 4. Productivity

In 2023/24 the Home Office launched the Firefighter Utilisation Survey. To have a consistent approach across the sector to capture wholetime firefighter activity they requested data for an initial four dates within 2022 and 2023.

To track progress against the NFCC sector commitment of 3% productivity improvement (calculated on wholetime firefighter hours), our Service used the survey to benchmark wholetime firefighter productivity starting from April 2020.

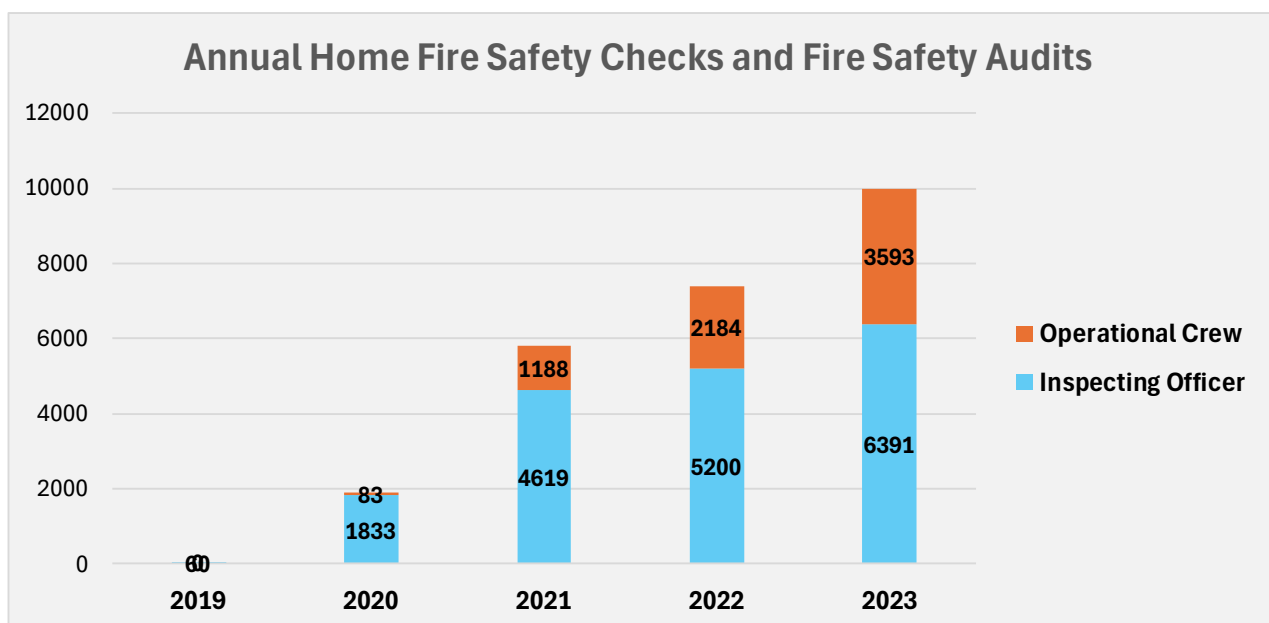
During the period from 2020/21 to 2023/24 Quarter 3, wholetime firefighter productivity increased by 6% which is higher than the NFCC Sector Commitment.

In addition to time responding to incidents, wholetime firefighter productivity is currently measured against:

- Prevention activity including physical risk-based domestic Home Fire Safety Visits
- Local risk identification, management and recording activity including operational risk visits aligned to the FRS Act 2004 s7(ii)d.
- Learning and development activities to maintain firefighter role competence.

### Home Fire Safety Checks and Fire Safety Audits

Our Service captures some productivity metrics through monthly performance dashboard reporting. This includes a summary of the total home fire safety visits carried out, which is shown in the graphs below.



As shown in the table above, the number of Home Fire Safety Visits carried out by Operational Crews continues to increase.

## Operational training

Continued investment in training has allowed greater levels of training delivery which supports acquisition, development and maintenance of competence. In key areas such as Breathing Apparatus training, we have been able to build on the increased training delivery.

Training being delivered at the right time and place increases firefighter productivity; colleagues have the right skills; qualifications remain up to date and training takes place as locally as is possible.

Our focus on core skills has meant we have fully trained crews available to be productive across prevention, protection and response activities. Our Core Skills Assurance Programme (CSAP) launched in 2019 has now become embedded as an additional annual operational assessment over a 3-year rolling programme, supported by a published policy.

The table below shows the increase in wholetime firefighter training since April 2020.



## On-call firefighters

We have developed the ability to use on-call staff, and wholetime staff from stations with surplus crewing, to support availability on our strategic stations. This is resulting in less standby moves for wholetime appliances, which is reducing the impact on local productivity targets and reducing costs.

In addition, we have an availability plan to find innovative ways of increasing on-call availability, while reducing costs. This has included the recent launch of a revised day duty operational rider policy (DDOR). With day duty staff spending some of their time each month working from on-call stations. This approach will be extended in 2024/25, to provide a more efficient method of increasing capacity and resilience within Fire Control. This plan will be developed over the coming year to further improve availability, whilst reducing costs.

## 5. Procurement

The transformation and upskilling of the procurement department to a category management approach has resulted in significant improvements.

Pipelines have been created in all categories and this has resulted in more efficient and effective procurement activity and plans.

Savings made by the procurement team are now captured as part of their standard processed and for 2023/24 this is approximately £0.5m. This equates to only £0.019m that was captured in 2022/23.

Dashboards have been created to provide visibility of spend across our Service and to provide an oversight on all procurement activity that is being undertaken. This is presented to the Service Leadership Team and the PFCC monthly. An update on savings and all collaborative activity is also reported through the dashboard on a quarterly basis.

Collaboration is central to all procurement activity. This includes working with fire sector bodies such as NFCC Procurement Hub or other Fire and Rescue Services and other public sector bodies such as 7 Force Police Procurement or and blue light organisations.

A recent example was the collaboration for the procurement of cleaning services. The tender process was run as a further competition under YPO's Dynamic Purchasing System for cleaning services by the NFCC National Procurement Hub. This is led by the NFCC National FM and Construction National Category Lead on behalf of four fire and rescue services: Essex, Kent, Lancashire and Royal Berkshire. The new contract brings all Service sites in line with the same standardised cleaning specification.

For ECFRS this has resulted in all sites having a consistent level of cleaning service, which includes on-call stations that would previously undertake the cleaning of their stations as an additional paid duty. The new contract is also undertaken by a single supplier, as opposed to multi suppliers like before.

We expect annual savings of £63,000 under the new contract, which result from the reduction in on-call firefighter pay costs and a reduction in cleaning products which are now included within the contract.

Our Service will continue to use existing frameworks if they are considered to give the best value for money for a specific procurement. The most frequent frameworks used are The National Fire Chiefs Council network, Crown Commercial Services (CCS), Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO), Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (YPO), and the Essex Procurement Hub.

ECFRS has procured 12 new appliances against the NFCC Framework Agreement for Emergency Response Vehicles which will be delivered in 2024/25. This framework provides our Service with access to a set of pre-approved suppliers and standard terms and conditions specifically written for the purchase of vehicles. This has saved us £178,000.

Some frameworks offer aggregation buying opportunities, our Service joined such an aggregation for our Microsoft Licences run by Crown Commercial Services. This

achieved savings of £59,600 when compared against the Microsoft current reseller offerings.

In addition to the collaborative procurement methods, the procurement team shares knowledge, templates and documents which improves our efficiencies in not having to repeat and reproduce documents thereby saving time. When sharing knowledge, we can learn from others to improve our processes and be more efficient in our tender process.

A recent example of this is where we have spoken with multiple other fire and rescue services before going out to tender for our workwear to learn from their tender process, and we have also shared our lessons learnt with others. We also collaborated with Suffolk Fire and Rescue for the purchase of positive pressure ventilation fans to join their procurement, this saved us time and costs in setting up and running a procurement process. The tender evaluation involved testing which Suffolk hosted and managed with Essex as joint evaluators bringing efficiencies in not using one of our sites and if we ran our own tender having to duplicate the testing.

During 2024/25 the existing public contract regulations will be replaced by the Procurement Act 2023 (the Act).

We expect to see time savings for the procurement team with the introduction of a central register for bidder company information. For our Service it means we do not have to duplicate questions for each tender that are covered in the standard questions managed by the Cabinet Office, saving us time processing and checking.

## **6. Charging Policy**

ECFRS generates more than £0.4m per year Special Service Charging related income. This income primarily relates to the following, and all charges are reviewed annually.

- The cost of specialist staff to attend court
- The cost of the water section for inspecting and testing privately owned fire hydrants and dry risers
- The cost of workshop engineers undertaking work for other public bodies
- H&S Exec – Fire Engineering.

Our Service has cross border support arrangements in place with neighbouring fire and rescue authorities. Over the next 12 months, our service is aiming to update charging in line with NFCC Guidelines on FRS Charging for mutual assistance.

## 7. Collaboration

Our Service has an Emergency Service Collaboration programme with Essex Police and the East of England Ambulance Service (EEAST). The programme was established in 2017 when the PCC took on responsibility for the governance of the fire and rescue service. The PFCC's 2017 Local Business Case for Change identified up to £30.8m of benefits that could be achieved through collaboration over a 10-year programme, with an expectation that at least half of those benefits could realistically be achieved.

In January 2024, the PFCC's Strategic Collaboration Board was informed that programme is currently expected to achieve £18m of benefits by 2027.

The PFCC tracks benefits from individual projects within the wider programme via project closure reports and annual reviews, reported to a bi-monthly Strategic Governance Board chaired by the PFCC. The PFCC receives a benefits tracker report at each meeting.

Some of the key collaboration projects for 2024/25 are listed below:

Collaborative Activity	Collaborative Activity	Collaborative Partner	Description	Efficiencies
<b>Prevention and Protection</b>	Community Wellbeing Officer	EEAST	This is an initial 12-month pilot that started in November 2023, which will see four Community Welfare Officers who will respond in pairs in a vehicle to (Cat 1(9), Cat 1 and Cat 2, Complex Rescue and Falls). This will also allow identify preventive and protective needs of each patient attended	£140,000 Cashable
<b>Prevention and Protection</b>	Tri Service Prevention Officer	Essex Police EEAST	Provide visibility and reassurance to communities; providing fire safety, community safety, and public health advice to prevent harm and improve outcomes for residents. After a successful pilot, the project is being expanded to cover another area to explore whether the benefits can be replicated.	£80,000 Cost Avoidance
<b>Prevention and Protection</b>	Education Officers	Essex Police	Delivery of community safety as well as fire safety messages to young people. The joint education programme can deliver a more efficient and effective service to schools and young people reaching 130,000 children per year. Essex Police now fully fund two Education Officers.	£100,000 Cashable



<b>Safeguarding</b>	Shared Resource	Cambridge Fire and Rescue NFCC	<p>Provide Cambridge with Safeguarding resources and support.</p> <p>Our Service also supports the Safeguarding Lead for the National Fire Chief Council (NFCC); this allows our Service to be at the forefront of adopting efficient and effective national good practice</p>	£24,000 Cashable
<b>Charging Policy</b>	Fleet Maintenance and Servicing	EEAST	Maintenance and servicing of frontline ambulances	£215,000 Cashable
<b>Shared Use of Estate</b>	Fleet Workshop	Essex Police	The creation of a joint fleet workshop in Boreham for Essex Police and ECFRS. In 2024/25 it is expected to complete the detail design build and be in a position to produce a final business case for Commissioner approval.	To be included as part of the final business case.
<b>Shared Use of Estate</b>	Office Space	PFCC	The PFCC occupies office space at the Fire Headquarters.	£50,000 cashable
<b>Shared Use of Estate</b>	Office Space	Essex Police	A pilot scheme is in place for the 7 Force Procurement Function and Essex Resilience Forum which operates out of the Fire Headquarters once a month.	Currently no charge
<b>Shared Use of Estate</b>	Meeting Rooms	Essex Police	Meeting room bookings total around 1,000 hours per year	Currently no charge
<b>Shared Use of Estate</b>	Response Posts	EEAST	<p>Use fire stations for parking, ambulance crew meal and rest breaks and re-charging of vehicles. This is in place at three fire stations.</p> <p>This will allow EEAST to rationalise its estate move to their new strategic estates Hub and Spoke model.</p>	£18,000 Cashable
<b>Shared Use of Estate</b>	Dovercourt	Essex Police	The relocation of Essex Police's Harwich Police Station to one of our Services sites in Dovercourt. This allows Essex Police to dispose of a costly capital asset that has high maintenance costs and relocate to a new, dedicated facility that will allow closer working between emergency	£300,000 cashable (capital receipt)

			services. This project will result in a Capital Receipt to the Service in 2023/24, of £300,000, with the project expecting completion in 2024/25.	
<b>Council Tax Collection</b>	Sharing Agreement	Essex County Council / Districts	To maximise council tax collections across the county and to reduce fraud and ensure compliance. The agreement also resulted in a cashable saving of £67,094 in 2023/24.	£67,000 cashable in 2023/24
<b>Insurance Arrangements</b>	Fire and Rescue Indemnity (FRIC)	13 FRA's	FRIC has been set up to provide indemnity for its members against risks normally fully covered by a traditional insurance company.	£250,000 cashable (based on comparable sized FRA who recently joined)
<b>Operational Training</b>		Suffolk and Norfolk FRA Essex Police EEAST	<p>Incident Command training is delivered to Suffolk and Norfolk FRS. Marauding Terrorist Attack (MTA), Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) and Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP) training is undertaken jointly with Essex Police and EEAST.</p> <p>We also undertake MTA &amp; CBRN training with EEAST and HART and CBRN training with EHAAT, National Police College, National Fire resilience and the Military. There are also national resilience arrangements and training in respect of Detection Identification and Monitoring (DIM). Joint training is also undertaken at Wethersfield with Stansted Airport FRS.</p>	-

## **8. Other Local Initiatives**

Our Service is involved with a number of other local Initiatives.

### **Restorative justice FireBreak & MOU ESSEX therapy dogs**

We deliver restorative justice Firebreak courses which are designed to engage young people and adults in restorative justice practices and referral processes. These usually take the form of an intensive 5-day intervention programme that provides a positive alternative learning environment. The programme is carried out at an operational fire station and combines classroom-based learning with practical activity. The courses offer a unique opportunity for participants to engage with operational firefighters who have been given additional training to become FireBreak Instructors.

Our Service sets out to deliver at least 11 Restorative Justice Firebreak courses in 2023/24, each comprising of 10 to 12 students.

Statistics suggest that individuals involved in the Restorative Justice process are 14% less likely to reoffend. The financial benefits of not reoffended on the Judicial System and Greater Essex is estimated to be £48,000 per annum.

### **Safe and Well Visits**

Safe and Well Visits are a proactive approach to making people safer in their homes. Delivered by the Safe and Well team within Prevention at ECFRS, these visits aim to prevent accidental dwelling fires (ADF), improve overall community health and create a safer, more secure living environment. The program targets those most vulnerable to being fatally injured in a fire. These are predominantly older people living alone, and individuals with specific health concerns, addressing both immediate safety concerns and long-term wellbeing.

A Safe and Well visit includes crime prevention messaging designed to stop burglary and improve target hardening and well as health and wellbeing messaging. Officers are trained assessors for assistive technology and make referrals for additional support from partner agencies.

In addition to our staff providing such visits, volunteers who have received appropriate training by the service carry out Safe and Well Visits in their communities, offering an efficient way to increase capacity and effectively target resources to risk.

### **Partnership agreements**

ECFRS has a register of partnership agreements in place, in which there is professional relationship with groups or organisations to collaboratively address shared strategic aims, either Essex-wide or in specific areas. A few examples of such agreements are shown below.

### **Safer Essex Roads Partnership data sharing**

ECFRS is a strategic partner in the Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP)

The partnership shares collision data, research, performance and financial information. The aim of sharing data is to summarise trends reflected in road safety data for Essex over previous decades and up to 2040. It identifies the range of recorded factors that contribute to collisions and the proportion of the total collisions that could potentially be prevented by the removal of these factors.

The purpose is to identify priority areas for addressing serious and fatal road traffic collisions, to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) on the roads of Essex. This data informs the SERP Vision Zero strategy.

### **Partnership - Cadent CO alarms**

Cadent supplies ECFRS with carbon monoxide alarms to provide to our most vulnerable residents who do not have existing working CO alarms. They also provide us with literature for all Essex residents and other useful items to give to residents who meet a certain criteria. Since July 2023, we have provided almost 1000 free CO alarms across Essex.

### **Road Safety Partnership -Kwik Fit**

Our Service has partnered with KwikFit for a winter safety campaign, engaging and educating young drivers via colleges and sixth forms. Our aim was to raise awareness around being safer on our roads, particularly focusing on winter road safety. For example, clearing your windscreen before starting your journey, allowing larger stopping distances, being prepared if you break down in cold weather and safe positions when broken down. In addition to this, we express the importance of tyre safety, and checking your vehicle before making a journey. By working in partnership with KwikFit, we can promote safer driving, safer stopping distances and how to check a vehicle safely – checking tyre tread depths are legal, checking oil levels and washer fluid levels.