



The Essex Emergency Services Collaboration Team would like to become an associate member of the Essex Developers Group (EDG) following their presentation to the group on 1 October. This document gives some context and sets out how we might support the work of the group in helping to accelerate house building ensuring our new and existing communities are safe.

#### The context:

In March 2019, a report was commissioned by the Essex Police Chief Constable, with the support of the county's Chief Fire Officer to devise and implement the Essex Police (and Essex County Fire and Rescue Services, ECFRS) strategy for influencing local planning connected with the large volume of developments due to occur in Essex over the next 15-20 years. This work has taken account of existing work by both Essex Police and Fire and Rescue, around strategic estates related projects, including estate disposals as well as Designing out Crime/Secured by Design and Essex County Fire and Rescue Services influencing certain technical aspects around road and water main infrastructure.

Between c180 - 250,000 new homes are planned to be developed in all areas of the county during this period, leading to a population increase of c 400, 000 residents from the c.1.7 million that currently reside in Essex. Essex Police needs to ensure it can influence crime prevention in all its shapes and forms (physical and digital) in design as well as looking at county wide issues including increases in volume of demand (crime and incidents) and as such the service/s needs to ensure it can maintain control of such demands. In the same respect ECFRS have a need to understand and respond to any increased risk brought by the additional growth and development will have on their current delivery model and Physical Estate provision. In addition to Building Regulations controls, we believe there is an opportunity to engage with developers with a view to designing out fire/introducing suppression systems at the point of build. Considering the lengthy timescales associated with many of these developments, any financial return associated with a Section 106 or CIL application could take some years to realise. Being able to influence the design of homes and infrastructure can be achieved much sooner if there is early engagement with developers.

Well evidenced recommendations and appeals for consideration of the use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) as well as the more recognised Section 106 (1990 Town and Country Planning Act) will need to form part of this project and recommendations around future activity.

We really feel that working with developers and local authorities and their planning teams will bring some huge benefits to this work and in the longer term, the residents and visitors to Essex by making our new and existing communities as safe as they can possibly be.

The project is supported by the 2019 National Planning Policy Framework which legislatively supports the inclusion of community safety within planning and development (see Appendix 3) but also National Crime Prevention Strategy; the Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety; the recently published Review into the Grenfell Tower Tragedy; National Planning Policy

Framework (Community Safety section especially) and the Future of Essex Vision amongst other key pieces of local and national strategy linked to development.

This project could significantly assist as an enabler around strategic demand and resource allocation/management planning linked to future development and growth.

Key objectives of the activity include:

- To create a proactive, consistent and informed, early response to the new demand placed on emergency services that new housing developments will bring.
- Aligning long term planning aspirations with the demand profiles of Essex Emergency services – applying collaborative and technical solutions where possible including applications around Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy funding.

What are we hoping to achieve and why?

- An agreed consistent and co-ordinated / collaborative emergency services led, evidenced approach to how developer contributions are applied for.
- Applying a strategic approach to responding – using demographic and demand management intelligence to inform a place based model
- To access initial set up costs of revenue and capital prior to precept income for the delivery via council tax contributions.
- Applying a strategic approach to responding – using demographic and demand/risk management intelligence to inform a place based model.
- We want to build a proactive, consistent and informed, early response to the new demand placed on emergency services that new Essex growth and developments will bring:

Furthermore:

- Understanding long term need, trends and where response will be required.
- Scoping how our current models of delivery that respond to this need.
- Developing how we align closer with our Emergency and Community based partners.
- Making the best use of public estate collaborating where beneficial.
- Feeding into master plans and larger planned developments at the early stages.
- Working with councils and developers for a joint approach to what our needs would be early and aligning to long term strategy development.
- Mirroring public health approach of developing key principles that can be fed into early master planning for emergency services provision
- Adhering to National Planning Policy Framework (updated June 19 – Promoting healthy and safer communities)
- Feed into guidance for developers and planners
- Build consultative links with Planning authorities
- Share developing long term strategies and needs for Emergency services provision
- Building an evidence base for predictive demand and risk
- Mapping our current provision to identify fit for purpose estate that reflects our changing delivery models.

What activity are we undertaking or considering at this time?

- High level principles are being developed at Chief Officer level across all three Essex Emergency Services to help inform Essex Design and Developer's Contribution Guides.
- A new emergency services consultation list has been created for local authority planning teams. This will negate the current position of some outdated contact names and e mail addresses and ensure that development planning consultation is accurate and timely and has some future resilience.
- Working with a multi- agency group (including Amazon, ECC, NHS, Essex Fire and Police, BT and others) to design a proof of concept system to help predict risk and demand linked to population and infrastructure growth and demographic change.
- A new technical checklist for Essex Emergency Services is being created. Accompanying the consultation list and high level principles, this will help inform the Essex design Guide and other publications and meetings/engagement.
- Liaison taking place with London Fire Brigade, to have Essex emergency services involved at an early stage with a Fire-centric version of Secured By Design, entitled 'Safer By Design'. This will take the technical checklist concept even further and ensure that some future-proof technical requirements for new developments, including cladding, sprinkler considerations, hydrant provision and so on and look to explore the mandatory sprinkler installation in all new build residence piece as present in Wales, if feasible.
- Work will continue to create a community safety (or similar) section for the Essex Design Guide.
- Essex Emergency Services have been invited alongside others to contribute to and comment on proposed changes to the Essex Developer's Contribution Guide.
- High level requirement mapping will need to be undertaken in the near future to help inform and plan across emergency service estate strategies.

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We would really welcome the opportunity to become members of the Essex Developers' Group.

In the interim and until further demand modelling and evidence collation is concluded, we feel that we could help facilitate communication and thereby advice and guidance between Developers and relevant contacts within all three Essex Emergency Services.

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