



Essex County
Fire & Rescue Service

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service

Initial Response to A12 to A120 Widening Scheme

About

This document outlines Essex Fire and Rescue Service's initial response to the consultation for the proposed development. This document should be read in conjunction with submissions received by Essex Police and the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service has a statutory duty to provide Response, Prevention and Protection functions within the community. Whilst we acknowledge the benefits of the completed development we would like to bring to your attention the impacts likely to affect the Blue Light Partners, especially during the construction phase. There is also considerable benefit to be gained for the Blue Light Partners through design of the development and we would welcome any opportunities to enable further development and enhancement of these provisions, including a Statement of Common Ground.

If further information or clarification on any of the points presented is required to support the developers, please contact the Service via

[REDACTED]

National Fire and Rescue Priorities – Home Office

The priorities for fire and rescue authorities set out in the National Fire and Rescue Framework for England July 2018 are to:

- 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
- Develop and maintain a workforce that is professional, resilient, skilled, flexible and diverse

The Fire and Rescue Plan – Essex County Fire and Rescue Service

The Fire and Rescue Plan sets out the priorities for fire and rescue services in Essex and a series of strong, tangible commitments to how we will help keep our communities safe.

The plan brings together the Service, partners and the public to build safe and secure communities and other efficient and effective prevention, protection and response activity.

The activities in this plan set out a clear direction for development of the Service and how, by working closer together with other emergency services and wider partners, we can deliver a better service while being closer to the communities we serve.

Our priorities are:

- Prevention, protection and response
- Improve safety on our roads
- Help the vulnerable to stay safe
- Promote a positive culture in the workplace
- Develop and broaden the roles and range of activities undertaken by the Service
- Be transparent, open and accessible
- Collaborate with our partners
- Make best use of our resources

Essex Design Guide

The Essex Design Guide provides high level direction for new developments which we would like to draw your attention to:

- Continuation of road design to ensure safe and timely access and egress to and from new developments.
- Continuation of road design to include turning circle provision plus future consideration to appliance sizes to ensure adequate space to manoeuvre on a development.
- Consideration for installation of an approved suppression system with better safety and more design freedom. Sprinkler considerations would help to isolate fire to the source and to ensure better safety for occupants / emergency services / reduce insurance costs. This may also afford developers more design freedom and scope for capacity in respect of distance from buildings to fire appliance access points.
- Continued consultation with Water Authorities for fire hydrant / water main provisions and consideration to ensure sufficient strategically placed resources are made available for operational firefighting and with appropriate water pressure considerations.
- Ensure new fire hydrant installations are fully operational before permitting residents to occupy dwellings.
- Ensuring new fire hydrants are not installed within private driveways / gardens.
- Continuation of at least 3 forms of fire hydrant asset indication. Hydrant indicator plate / post, painted FH cover and painted adjacent kerb. In the absence of a kerb then a thermoplastic yellow road 'H' applied to the road surface.
- Section 106 agreement at planning application stage to ensure that the developer will bear the costs for any new fire hydrant installations deemed necessary by the Fire Authority where the new development exceeds 10 dwellings.

Initial Response to Consultation Document

Having reviewed the consultation document, at this time Essex County Fire and Rescue Service would ask that the following are considered during the continued development of the A12 to A120 Widening Scheme:

- Provision of rest stop bays for Emergency Service vehicles, to include electric charging facilities.
- Provide opportunities to work in partnership with developers to deliver Prevention investment and interventions to enable a safer environment for road users and pedestrians during and following construction.
- Implementation of Vision Zero / Safe System principles, particularly under the Safer Roads pillar of protection to reduce the risk of collisions resulting in death or serious injury.
- National Highways to consider and incorporate the Vision Zero / Safe System approach into its strategies, policies and plans.

- National Highways to consider the adoption of a systematic star rating / risk mapping tool for their network.
- Appropriate design considerations for all public, cycle and horse pathways and bridges to prevent and/or reduce the risk of suicide attempts.
- Appropriate planning and mitigations to reduce risks and improve safety around outdoor water sources.
- Appropriate planning and mitigations to reduce the impacts of flood water.
- Suitable principles in design to avoid deliberate fire setting.
- Implementation of a land management strategy to minimise the potential spread of fire either from or towards roadside verges.
- Consideration for road widths to be accessible whilst not impeding emergency service vehicle response through safe access routes for fire appliances including room to manoeuvre (such as turning circles).
- Investment and interaction with activity linked to supporting JESIP principles, ensuring common terminology when passing information between Highways England and the Emergency Services.
- Implementation of a transport strategy to minimise the impact of construction and prevent an increase in the number of road traffic collisions. Any development should not negatively impact on the Service's ability to respond to an incident in the local area.
- A risk reduction strategy to cover the construction and completion phases of the project.
- Consideration for the additional purchase of land neighbouring Essex County Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Kelvedon Park as part of any Compulsory Purchase Orders, to expand and develop our site provisions.
- Guaranteed 24/7 access and egress for all Emergency Service personnel (including in private vehicles) who work at Essex County Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Kelvedon Park.
- Guaranteed 24/7 access and egress for construction vehicles and deliveries for improvement works due to take place at Essex County Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Kelvedon Park 2023-2026, with continued dialogue and engagement between ECFRS, National Highways and any other development organisations involved in the A12 scheme.

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service welcomes the opportunity to continue these conversations as the development progresses to ensure opportunities to reduce risk and improve the emergency service provision are realised.

Future Infrastructure Risk Team: [REDACTED]

