

REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

REPORT NUMBER – 320 - 2013

12th AUGUST, 2013

Report by Area Manager David Stapley, Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

SUBJECT: SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE 3 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Abstract

This Report provides Members with an update on the recently published Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Plan, which is out for consultation until the 31 August 2013 and highlights a requirement to review the interim Local Fire and Rescue Plan.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To inform the Committee of the first Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) strategic plan, following approval by the SFRS board at its meeting on the 27th of June 2013. Additionally the report highlights the process of engagement and consultation undertaken prior to approval by the Scottish Parliament.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) Note this report and the attached SFRS strategy document attached at Appendix 1.
- b) Note the implications that the document will have on the interim local Fire and Rescue Plan.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications arising from the policies and strategies associated with the delivery of the Strategic Plan will be met by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

4 BACKGROUND

4.1 The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 established the new Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), replacing the eight previous services and joint boards and commenced its full range of functions on the 1 April 2013.

4.2 The Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013 sets out Scottish Ministers' priorities and objectives for the service in building a new high performing organisation, building on the four pillars of public sector reform which were set out by the Christie Commission without negatively impacting on frontline outcomes.

4.3 The Framework establishes a new purpose for the SFRS, with partnership at its heart, aimed at making a real difference to the safety and wellbeing of our communities.

4.4 A key outcome of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 is to provide greater scrutiny and accountability. The legislation establishes a number of principles to secure this including.

- Greater levels of governance and accountability to the Scottish Government
- Establishing an independent Scottish Fire and Rescue Service board
- Appointment of Local Senior Officer
- A requirement to produce a 3 year Strategic Plan

4.5 The strategic plan sets out how the SFRS Board will develop the service over a 3 year period, whilst meeting the expectations of the Scottish Government articulated within the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland.

4.6 The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has published its draft Strategic Plan for 2013-2016 and is now embarking on a period of consultation to ensure that its strategic aims and activities reflect the needs of key stakeholders and local communities. This is a critical milestone as it will provide the Service with its direction of travel over the next three years.

4.7 A formal process of reviewing the plan will follow a 3 yearly cycle, however, a process of continual review will ensure that strategic aims and activities remain fit for purpose. The strategic plan will inform the development of the SFRS operating plan, as well as business unit plans and local plans. These will specify delivery mechanisms and targets in greater detail.

5 DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

5.1 The Board supported by Senior Leadership Team have undertaken a number of planning days in the production of the Strategic Plan. In addition feedback was received from Scottish Government officials to ensure that the priorities and objectives, contained within the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland, were achieved.

6 CONSULTATION

6.1 The SFRS aims to consult widely with stakeholders on the development of the strategic plan in an effective, open and collaborative manner to actively involve them in the developing the future direction of the service.

6.2 In order to maximise the return a number of approaches of engagement have been adopted informed by previous stakeholder analysis:

- Structured discussion forums
- Briefings/workshops/roadshows with staff groups
- Stakeholder research sessions with partner groups
- SFRS Website
- Social media
- Newsletters / e-zines
- Questionnaires

6.3 Pat Watters, the Board convener and Chief Officer Alasdair Hay have liaised with COSLA officials to discuss the consultation process and agree formal engagement with all Councils across Scotland.

6.4 Consultation will take place between the 1 July and the 31 August 2013.

6.5 The responses will be analysed by a sub group of the Board, supported by a policy advisor. The sub group will meet at least three times during the consultation period to review responses and direct specific activities to address any of the issues raised.

6.6 To support the relationship between the SFRS and Councils, Local Senior Officers will undertake face-to-face engagement with the Chief Executive and Community Planning Partners. A meeting took place on the 26th of July during which a number of points were highlighted and discussed. The Council will now consider its position and if appropriate submit the relevant response to the consultation process.

6.7 The consultation pack can be accessed from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service website at: ☐

<http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/about-us/strategic-plan.aspx>

7 LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN

7.1 The Local Fire and Rescue Plan flows from the strategic plan and sets out the priorities and objectives for local service delivery. The Local Fire and Rescue Plan is a key element for strengthening the connection between the SFRS and the communities we serve.

7.2 The Policy and Resources Committee approved the interim Dundee Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2013/14 on the 18 March 2013 following the work that was under taken as part of the Local Scrutiny and Engagement pathfinder to ensure compliance with the Police and Fire reform (Scotland) Act 2012 in support of local scrutiny arrangements.

7.3 Work has now commence to review the local Plan to ensure that it is aligned and supports the SFRS Strategic Plan. Further engagement and consultation will take place to reflect any change that may be necessary including seeking the necessary approval of this Committee.

7.4 The outcome of this process will be the implementation of a three year Local Fire and Rescue Plan. This will provide a greater degree of consistency and alignment with the SFRS planning cycle to ensure on-going review of the Strategic Plan.

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 There were no equality impacts arising from this report. An equality impact assessment is available by request from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for the Strategic Plan.

9 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

9.1 There are no environmental issues arising as a consequence of this report.

10 SUMMARY

10.1 The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 places a requirement on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to produce a Strategic Plan.

10.2 Consultation on the plan will take place between the 1 July and the 31 August 2013.

10.3 Formal engagement has taken place between the Local Senior Officer and the Chief Executive and a response to the consultation, if appropriate, will be submitted by Dundee City Council.

10.4 A review of the interim Local Fire and Rescue Plan will be initiated by the Local Senior Officer to ensure that it supports the direction set within the Strategic Plan. Any amendments will be presented to the Policies and Resources Committee for approval.

9 Background Papers

9.1 No background papers, as defined in Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

Area Manager David Stapley
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