

**To: COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND PLANNING POLICY BOARD**

**On: 6 JUNE 2017**

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**Report by: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

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**Heading: SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN (RENFREWSHIRE) 2017, CONSULTATION**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service launched the *Local Fire and Rescue Plan - Renfrewshire* consultation on 3 April 2017. The initial consultation ends on 26 June 2017 with the final strategy being launched in the following months. In order to ensure the members of the Council's Police, Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee have full opportunity to scrutinise and comment on this plan, the local Senior Officer (Scottish Fire and Rescue) has extended the consultation period to allow a Council submission to be made after the next meeting of the Police, Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee in August 2017.
- 1.2 In November 2016, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service launched its Strategic Plan (2016 – 2019) which was designed to meet national expectations whilst encapsulating their mission, value and strategic priorities.
- 1.3 The 2017 local fire and rescue plan is specific to Renfrewshire. It highlights the local context and key priorities for Renfrewshire. The key priorities include:
- Domestic Fire Safety
  - Unintentional Harm and Injury
  - Deliberate Fire Setting
  - Non-Domestic Fire Setting
  - Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals
  - Operational Resilience and Preparedness
- 1.4 For each priority, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service details how they will:
- Reduce unwanted incidences
  - Monitor effectiveness
  - Achieve reductions in key areas

- 1.5 The live consultation is available at <https://firescotland.citizenspace.com/planning-and-performance/renfrewshire-local-plan/> and is attached as Appendix 1.
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## 2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board:

- 2.1 Notes the consultation on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Local Fire and Rescue Plan (Renfrewshire) 2017.
- 2.2 Notes that the consultation is currently open with initial responses required by the closing date of 26 June 2017, but that the local Senior Officer has extended the consultation period to allow a response to be submitted on behalf of the Council following the next meeting the Police, Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee in August 2017.
- 2.3 Requests the Director of Community Resources to prepare a draft response to the consultation for consideration at the next Police, Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee in August 2017.
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## 3. Background

- 3.1 The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service came into force as a single body in 2013 under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012. At this time, Scottish Fire and Rescue launched its first Strategic Plan (2013 – 2016) and has since published the 2016-2019 Strategic Plan.
- 3.2 As part of the above, Scottish Fire and Rescue also produce local plans, including the 2014 – 2017 local fire and rescue plan for Renfrewshire and a review of this plan was considered by the previous Housing and Community Safety Board on 14 March 2017.
- 3.3 The Scottish Fire and Rescue Local Fire and Rescue Plan (2014 – 2017) review is attached for reference as Appendix 2.
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## Implications of this Report

1. **Financial** - none
2. **HR and Organisational Development** – none
3. **Community Planning**

**Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire** – The 3 year plan for Renfrewshire will aid the work undertaken by the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership which will lead to a Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire by assisting communities and vulnerable persons, reducing unwanted fires, reducing victims of unintended harm, teaching communities and ensuring residents and visitors are safe.

4. **Legal** – none
5. **Property/Assets** – none

6. **Information Technology** – none
7. **Equality & Human Rights** – The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health and Safety** – none.
9. **Procurement** – none.
10. **Risk** – none.
11. **Privacy Impact** – none.

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**List of Background Papers** – None

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# **LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN**

**Renfrewshire**

**2017**

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## Introduction

Welcome to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Renfrewshire. This plan has been developed to support the delivery of agreed local outcomes for Renfrewshire's communities in conjunction with the national priorities contained within the SFRS Strategic Plan 2016 – 2019. With the ambition of working in partnership to improve community safety, enhancing the well-being of those living or resorting to Renfrewshire whilst tackling issues of social inequality, this plan will set out our priorities in order to support this ambition.

The demands placed upon the SFRS to respond to a wide variety of incidents challenges us to ensure our personnel acquire and maintain a range of skills to enable our ability to respond to emergencies. Through the identification and the management of risks within the area we will continue to prepare for these responses, however we recognise on many occasions this demand can be reduced through effective engagement and intervention measures.

We recognise as a public service organisation and as a member of the community planning partnership, the demographics of our society is changing which will challenge us to continually improve on how we deliver our services to our communities. Our plan will therefore seek to focus on those areas of demand to maximise the potential to work in partnership and by using our capacity more effectively and innovatively to ensure we direct our resources to the point of need within our communities to protect those most at risk from harm.

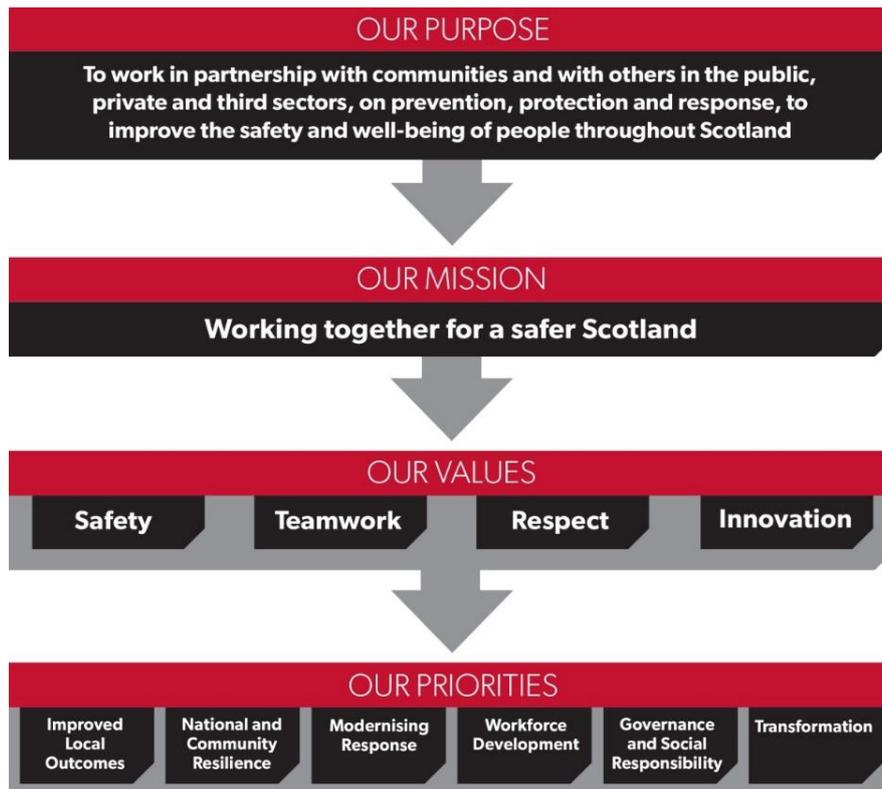
As the SFRS continues to evolve we will seek to play a key part in public service reform and identify new opportunities to broaden our role within society to ensure as a modern Fire and Rescue Service, we continue to protect Renfrewshire's communities. This Local Fire and Rescue Plan in conjunction with the statutory responsibilities placed upon the SFRS will be used as a driver to build upon our existing partnership arrangements in Renfrewshire whilst seeking to foster new relationships to support the service's mission of "Working Together for a Safer Scotland".

**David Proctor**  
**Local Senior Officer**

## National Context

Scottish Ministers set out their specific expectations for the SFRS in the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2016. This provides the outline we should follow to ensure our resources and activities are aligned with the Scottish Government's Purpose and national outcomes.

Our Strategic Plan 2016-19 has been designed to meet these national expectations. Set against a complex and evolving backdrop our Strategic Plan encapsulates our mission, values and strategic priorities.



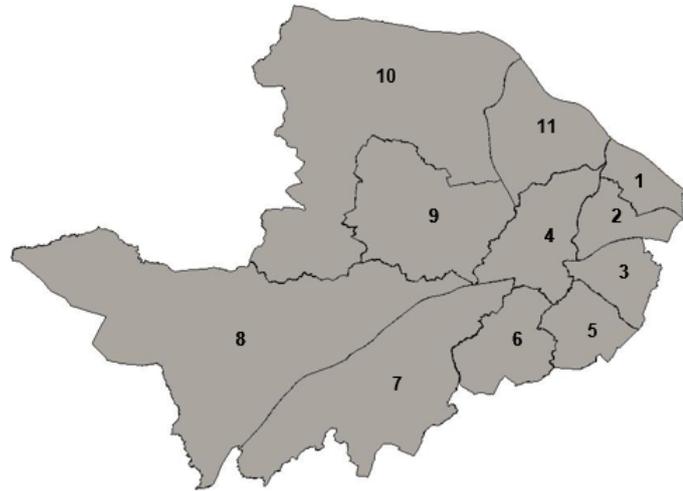
These have been shaped with due regard to the challenges we face and to what we need to achieve to be a highly effective, sustainable public service. Operating within a climate of significant financial uncertainty and public service reform means we need to transform how we operate. This will particularly include how we prepare for and respond to changing societal needs, the impact of climate change and the threat of terrorism.

Strong leadership, supported by sound governance and management arrangements are at the very core of our foundations. These arrangements will direct and provide assurance that we comply with our statutory responsibilities. In addition, they will provide Local Senior Officers with supporting mechanisms to deliver services specifically tailored to local needs.

## Local Context

The current population of Renfrewshire, which is around 175000 and constitutes approximately 3% of the total number of persons living in Scotland. Whilst the population within Renfrewshire will be relatively unchanged, the demographical aspect of the area suggests a projected increase in elderly residents.

- 1 Renfrew North
- 2 Renfrew South & Gallowhill
- 3 Paisley East & Raiston
- 4 Paisley North West
- 5 Paisley South
- 6 Paisley South West
- 7 Johnstone South, Elderslie & Howwood
- 8 Johnstone North, Kilbarchan & Lochwinnoch
- 9 Houston, Crosslee & Linwood
- 10 Bishopton, Bridge of Weir & Langbank
- 11 Erskine & Inchinnan



To enable the SFRS to plan and deliver on a proactive and reactive basis, it is important to understand where and how demand for fire and rescue resources may arise in the short, medium and longer term. As a local authority area, Renfrewshire is constituted by eleven multi-member electoral wards covering a range of diverse urban and rural communities over approximately 104 square miles. Emergency response within the local authority area is provided from three locations comprising:-

- Paisley Community Fire Station (Wholetime personnel)
- Renfrew Community Fire Station (Wholetime Personnel)
- Johnstone Community Fire Station (Wholetime & Retained Duty System personnel)

Review of operational activity across Renfrewshire indicates a general downward trend in overall activity levels over the last five years. In terms of fire related activity, accidental dwelling fires have fluctuated year on year with the current trend showing an increase, although the provision of early warning has contributed significantly to reducing the severity of fires within the home with the majority of incidents being dealt with in their initial stages. The protection of our vulnerable members within our communities has been supported by the provision and extension of linked smoke alarms into domestic properties. Accidental dwelling fires caused by factors associated with vulnerable persons currently accounts for just over 1 in 3 of all accidental dwelling fires being attended by the SFRS.

Fire fatality rates within Renfrewshire are extremely low, although fire casualty rates have fluctuated over the corresponding periods. Over the last five years there has been a downward trend in the numbers of recorded fire related casualties. The majority of recorded fire related casualties are not required to attend hospital and of those who have attended hospital, the majority have been deemed to have sustained only slight injuries.

Trend analysis of deliberate fire setting shows a fluctuation in levels of this activity type over the last five years. Analysis identifies deliberate fire setting is occurring on an ongoing basis, although peak activity has been identified in the same periods each year.

Whilst attendances at non-fire related emergencies on average account for around 1 in every 10 operational mobilisations and are considerably less than the number of fire related incidents, the number of fatalities and casualties are notably higher than fire related injuries (fatal and non-fatal). Whilst the majority of non-fire emergency casualties (fatal and non-fatal) are as a result of road traffic collisions within Renfrewshire, another emerging trend has been identified in those persons requiring assistance from other organisations. This results in support being requested from the SFRS in the form of forcing entry into premises to render assistance to occupants or the provision of first responder (medical) assistance.

Whilst many incidents within Renfrewshire are as a result of a confirmed genuine emergency, on average more than half of emergency responses made by the SFRS turn out to be false alarms. These alarms may be as a result of a genuine belief that a fire is occurring which subsequently is confirmed not to be the case or through malicious activity resulting in a report of fire being made knowing this report is false in its nature. There are also a number of warnings of fire generated by fire alarm systems which, following an attendance and investigation, turn out to be false in their origin. Currently attendances to premises which generate these false signals account on average for forty-five percent of all emergency responses within Renfrewshire resulting in disruption to those within the premises in which the alarm activates and also to the SFRS who, on many occasions, are diverted from other activities to attend these incidents.

Reducing service demand, whilst developing the role of the SFRS as part of the ongoing process of public service reform, presents both challenges and opportunities for us to become more integrated in the community planning partnership environment. The recent introduction of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 will result in the development of Renfrewshire's Local Outcome Improvement Plan through a process of locality planning which is designed to deliver local outcomes that make a positive contribution across Renfrewshire's communities and to reduce inequalities. In developing this Local Fire and Rescue Plan, the SFRS will seek to ensure its activities compliment and support the locality planning process. With the development of the local community justice strategy within Renfrewshire following the introduction of the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016, the SFRS will ensure, as a partner within the Community Justice Authority, its resources contribute to support the delivery of the local justice strategy.

The delivery of shared outcomes is embedded within Renfrewshire through its range of community planning approaches. Renfrewshire's Community Planning Partnership is committed to the delivery of its vision - *“Working together to make Renfrewshire a fairer, more inclusive place where all our people, communities and businesses thrive.”*

Through the development of its Community Plan and associated key strategic priorities focused on Economy and Skills, Safer Communities and Wellbeing, the SFRS takes an active role in the delivery of these priorities and their intended outcomes through participation and engagement across the partnership arena. Supporting the delivery of Anti-Social Behaviour, Adult and Child Protection, Health and Social Care including Alcohol and Drug strategies are examples of where the SFRS can collaborate in the delivery of these priorities at a local level whilst pursuing the key priorities of this Local Fire and Rescue Plan.

Overseeing the performance of the SFRS at local level is the responsibility of Renfrewshire's Housing and Community Safety Policy Board. The Board undertakes the process of scrutiny to monitor progress against the priorities within Renfrewshire's Local Fire and Rescue Plan and also engages with the Local Senior Officer in matters arising on a regional or national basis.

## Local Priorities

### 1. Domestic Fire Safety

Fire safety within the home is a key prevention strategy for the SFRS as the consequence of fires within the home can result in a range of impacts on individuals, families, social landlords and communities. For organisations the requirement to respond, intervene and deal with the aftermath of domestic fires places demand on its resources. To reduce this demand, it is essential approaches to prevention are evidenced based in order to maximise and focus resources to make the biggest impact to safeguard those most at risk of fire.

Analysis of accidental dwelling fire data identifies cooking as the most common cause of fires within the home in Renfrewshire and also the most prevalent cause where fire related injuries are sustained by occupants. Distraction has been identified as the main contributory factor where accidental dwelling fires and/or injuries occur. Those who are deemed at risk from fire may also have other vulnerabilities and impairments due to age, health or mobility reasons and they may also be receiving support from other partners. The scope therefore exists to work more closely together to protect those most at risk from fire through effective information sharing.

In order to reduce the potential for fires from occurring, influencing positive change in occupant behaviours through raising fire safety awareness will be at the forefront of our preventative activities. By increasing the ownership of working smoke detection, the means of giving early warning of fire will also contribute to mitigating the severity of fires and fire related injuries within the home. By using assistive technology, the opportunity exists to further enhance the safety of those who are at risk from fire.

**We will seek to reduce accidental dwelling fires and fire related injuries within the home by:**

- *Promoting and undertaking Home Fire Safety Visits to those deemed at risk from fire*
- *Working with our partners in Renfrewshire to share information where fire risks within the home have been identified and to provide solutions to protect those who are at risk*
- *Focusing engagement activities in those areas where service demand has been identified*
- *Supporting the provision of assistive technology within the home to increase occupant safety*

**We will monitor our progress in promoting our domestic safety strategy by:**

- *Reviewing the number of accidental dwelling fires and their severity*
- *Reviewing the number and the severity of fatal and non-fatal fire related injuries*
- *Increasing the presence of working smoke/heat detection within homes affected by fire*

**By achieving a reduction in the frequency and severity of accidental dwelling fires and fire related injuries we will:**

- *Support the safety and well-being of Renfrewshire residents*
- *Support the independent living of vulnerable members within our communities*
- *Reduce the social and economic cost of fires and fire related injuries*
- *Reduce demand on the SFRS and its partners*

## **2. Unintentional Harm and Injury**

It is not uncommon for those at risk from fire to also be at risk from other injuries within the home, in particular from injuries arising from slips, trips and falls. Requests to the SFRS to provide assistance directly through a first responder role or to provide support to other agencies are increasing. Analysis of data indicates falls are a common cause of accidental deaths and injuries and account for a significant proportion of admissions to hospital. Those persons injured through falls may often be affected by other medical conditions such as dementia. The SFRS has a role to play in contributing to the protection of those at risk from injury and harm within the home. Through operational attendances and delivery of home fire safety visits, we have the opportunity to identify those at risk and through an assessment of such risk, refer individuals to partner organisations for additional support.

Out with the domestic environment, the SFRS respond to a range of non-fire related emergencies. The most common incident of this type within Renfrewshire is attendances at Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) which results in the majority of non-fire related injuries. Responding to RTCs is a statutory duty for the SFRS, however a collective approach is required amongst community planning partners to support risk reduction measures. As a partner, the SFRS will support the education of young drivers who are considered to be an 'at risk' group and support other initiatives intended to reduce the instances and impact of RTCs within Renfrewshire.

### **We will seek to reduce the impact of unintentional injury and harm by:**

- *Utilising our Home Fire Safety Visit programme to assess for non-fire related risk and refer those deemed at risk from injury and harm to partners to provide additional support*
- *Raising awareness of fire and rescue service personnel as to those factors that increase the risk of unintentional injury or harm*
- *Working in partnership to deliver targeted road safety programmes to young drivers*
- *Focusing resources where demand has been identified and deliver key safety messages*

### **We will monitor the effectiveness of our intervention strategies by:**

- *Reviewing the number of requests for assistance from other agencies and for the provision of medical and first responder support*
- *Reviewing the number of attendances at RTCs and the frequency and severity of injuries arising from RTCs*
- *Reviewing the number of other non-fire related emergencies and the frequency and severity of injuries arising from these incidents*

### **By achieving a reduction in the frequency and severity of unintentional harm and injuries we will:**

- *Reduce the social and economic cost of unintentional harm and injury*
- *Support vulnerable members within our communities to live independently within their communities*
- *Ensure the safety and well-being of those living, working and visiting Renfrewshire*

### **3. Deliberate Fire Setting**

Deliberate fire setting accounts for a significant number of operational incidents within Renfrewshire and takes various forms. Whilst a small proportion involves occupied buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures (primary fires), the majority of deliberate fires are classed as secondary in nature and on most occasions occur in outdoor locations.

Analysis of incident data identifies deliberate secondary fires occurring throughout the year, however peak activity is noted in the spring time, during the bonfire season and when prolonged periods of dry weather arise. Deliberate fire setting is regarded as anti-social behaviour and is also criminal in nature. These acts can lead to serious consequences such as personal injury, damage to property and the environment. Dealing with instances of deliberate fire setting also diverts fire and rescue resources from other meaningful activities.

Working in partnership, we will seek to combine our information to identify those parts of our communities that are being affected by anti-social behaviour in order to reduce such instances whilst tackling the underlying causes of such behaviour. On some occasions the SFRS will work with Police Scotland to investigate deliberate fire setting to determine the cause and if possible those responsible for such acts. Diversionary and engagement activity is regarded as an important approach in tackling anti-social behaviour and will continue to be part of our approach to raise awareness of the impact of this unwanted activity.

#### **We will seek to reduce the instances of fire related anti-social behaviour by:**

- *Identifying those parts of Renfrewshire's communities affected by deliberate fire setting to share this information with our partners*
- *Utilising our Fire Reach, Firesetters and school's education programmes to raise awareness of the impact of fire related anti-social behaviour*
- *Working with partners to develop joint strategies to reduce the risk posed by deliberate fire setting and to mitigate its impacts*

#### **We will monitor the effectiveness of reducing fire related anti-social behaviour by:**

- *Reviewing the number and type of deliberate fire setting incidents within Renfrewshire*
- *Evaluating the effectiveness of our youth engagement programmes*

#### **By achieving a reduction in fire related anti-social behaviour we will:**

- *Enable the SFRS to divert its resources towards other community based activities*
- *Protect the natural and built environment*
- *Support the promotion of active and responsible citizenship across Renfrewshire communities*
- *Support our communities in feeling safe from crime, disorder and danger*

#### **4. Non-Domestic Fire Safety**

In general, all workplaces and business are classed as non-domestic premises and as such come within the scope of Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 (the Act) which places duties on persons responsible for these premises to comply with the Act and its associated regulations. The SFRS has a statutory duty to promote fire safety and where required enforce compliance with fire safety legislation. To discharge this duty and to secure compliance, the SFRS has adopted an approach utilising advice, education and where required formal enforcement powers.

Given the variety of premises which come within the scope of the Act, the SFRS has developed a fire safety enforcement framework which is based on the principal of risk combined with historical fire data across occupancy groups to create the fire safety audit programme. Those premises which present a higher degree of risk from fire are subject to regular fire safety audits to verify compliance.

The impact of fire can have a devastating impact on business, employment, the provision of critical services and also our heritage. Evidence suggests that premises affected by a serious fire experience a high failure rate. The SFRS will undertake its audit programme to support Renfrewshire's ambition to grow its economy during this challenging period of economic recovery and seek to safeguard its culture, heritage and continuation of employment opportunities.

##### **We will seek to reduce the instances of fires within non-domestic property by:**

- *Undertaking our fire safety audit programme in accordance with the SFRS Enforcement Framework*
- *Engaging with duty holders to promote responsible fire safety management of premises that come under the auspices of Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005*
- *Working in partnership to ensure the appropriate provision of fire safety standards are incorporated in new premises under construction or premises undergoing material changes*
- *Working in partnership with other enforcement agencies and organisations to support legislative compliance*

##### **We will monitor the effectiveness of reducing fires in non-domestic premises by:**

- *Reviewing the number of fires in non-domestic premises and the type of premises involved in fire*
- *Reviewing the number and types of fire safety audits carried out across Renfrewshire*
- *Reviewing the outcome of fire safety audits carried out in non-domestic premises*

##### **By achieving a reduction in fires within non-domestic premises we will:**

- *Enable the industrial, commercial and service sector to maintain business continuity and employment across Renfrewshire*
- *Reduce the potential for loss of life and injury*
- *Protect Renfrewshire's culture and heritage*
- *Protect the natural and built environment and reduce the impact of fire on our communities*

## 5. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Fire protection within premises can be viewed as a holistic approach for the purposes of safeguarding life and/or property by inhibiting, growth and spread of fire. The design and use of premises will influence the extent of the fire protection required to be incorporated within it. In developing a fire protection strategy for the various premises types and for that strategy to be successful, a key component is the provision of early warning of fire. The provision of early warning enables those within premises sufficient time for them to exit the building to a place of safety in the event of fire.

Whilst a small number of fire alarm signals generated are due to confirmed fire conditions being present, there are an even greater number of signals generated which when investigated have occurred when no fire conditions have been present. On such occasions these are known as 'Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals' (UFAS) and is defined as '*an event which has required an operational attendance by the fire and rescue service due to the unwanted actuation of a fire alarm system*'. On these instances the signal may originate from a monitoring/call centre as a result of an automatic activation of the fire alarm system or a person activating the fire alarm system either maliciously or with good intentions believing a fire was occurring within a non-domestic premises.

The impact of responding to UFAS incidents causes disruption to the premises working environment and to the range of activities the SFRS undertake. Unnecessary blue light journeys also create additional risks and hazards to firefighters and to the public whilst responding to UFAS incidents and also have a detrimental impact on the environment through additional carbon emissions. Active and positive engagement with occupiers to take responsibility in limiting the number of UFAS incidents within their premises is integral to reducing these impacts.

### **We will seek to reduce the instances of Unwanted Fire Alarms Signals by:**

- *Investigating every cause of alarm and engaging with those responsible for fire warning systems following an operational attendance at a UFAS incident*
- *Analysing our UFAS attendances at those premises that give cause to frequent generation of false alarms to identify trends and support occupiers to develop demand reduction plans*
- *Instigating where required, formal fire safety enforcement measures to ensure appropriate demand reduction action is taken by those responsible for premises generating unacceptable levels of false alarms*

### **We will monitor the effectiveness of mobilising to Unwanted Fire Alarms Signals by:**

- *Reviewing the number of attendances at non-domestic premises and the type of premises generating unwanted false alarm signals across Renfrewshire*
- *Evaluating the outcomes of occupier's demand reduction plans to review progress and identify and share good practice*
- *Reviewing our attendances at UFAS incidents to ensure our attendances are based on an assessment of risk and demand*

### **By achieving a reduction in Unwanted Fire Alarms Signals we will:**

- *Minimise the disruption to business and service continuity across Renfrewshire*
- *Increase the capacity of the fire and rescue service to carry out other activities*
- *Reduce the risk to firefighters and public whilst responding to UFAS incidents*

## 6. Operational Resilience and Preparedness

The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Fire (Additional Function) (Scotland) Order 2005 defines the duties and responsibilities for the SFRS in relation to responding to emergencies. It is essential our firefighters possess the skills, knowledge and expertise to respond to incidents which, by their nature, can be varied in both their type and complexity.

It is important our firefighters understand the risks across their communities to ensure the level of risk is matched by an appropriate level of operational response. In gathering this knowledge, appropriate training can be carried out to safeguard firefighter safety and to ensure any such response results in an effective and efficient deployment of our resources.

There will also be occasions whereby the nature of an emergency will require a combined response by emergency services and other organisations to deal with such a major event. To ensure a co-ordinated response occurs, additional duties are placed upon the SFRS under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 to prepare and be able to respond to deal with major emergencies. The scope of such preparations may include responding to adverse weather events, natural disasters, pandemics, chemical incidents or major transport incidents. The threat of terrorism also compels the SFRS to ensure it can also respond alongside other partner agencies should such an event occur.

As an emergency responder, the SFRS needs to ensure it has the capability and the capacity to plan, prepare and respond to major emergencies. Working in partnership at a local and national level, the multi-agency approach requires a joint approach to assess these risks in order to develop appropriate response plans. Following their development, these plans require to be tested to support a return to normality when a significant event and subsequent disruption arises.

We recognise the potential for the role of the SFRS to evolve which provides scope to further protect those members of our communities from harm in the event of an emergency. Assisting other agencies in emergency situations, such as responding to 'Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrests' is one example where resources can be combined to maximise the potential for positive outcomes for those requiring assistance. Out with emergency responses the opportunity also exists to promote and support community resilience to improve the survivability rates from cardiac arrests through active engagement and education across Renfrewshire communities.

**We will seek to ensure operational response and preparedness within Renfrewshire is maintained by:**

- *Identifying and assessing the risk to our communities through Operational Intelligence gathering*
- *Undertaking planned training events to support the acquisition and maintenance of skills to provide the capability to respond to emergency incidents*
- *Reviewing our operational responses to incidents to ensure ongoing firefighter safety and to ensure the ongoing protection our communities from harm*
- *Working in partnership to plan, prepare and test our responses to major emergencies*
- *Supporting and promoting the reduction of harm from 'Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrests'*

## Review

To ensure this Local Fire and Rescue Plan remains flexible to emerging local or national priorities a review may be carried out at any time but will be reviewed at least once every three years. A review may also be carried out if the Scottish Minister directs it or if a new Strategic Plan is approved. Following a review, the Local Senior Officer may revise the Plan.

## Tell us what you think

This draft Local Fire and Rescue Plan sets out what our broad ambitions will be on behalf of the people of our area. It sets our local direction for the SFRS and it will determine the details contained in all our other plans for that period.

We would like you to tell us what you think of our plan. The formal consultation for this draft Local Fire and Rescue Plan opens on 3 April 2017 and will run until 26 June 2017. To ensure we review and manage all responses consistently you are invited to provide comment in our online survey. This can be accessed at [firescotland.citizenspace.com](http://firescotland.citizenspace.com). After the consultation is closed we will publish the results.

If you cannot access our online survey, or if you would like more information about the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in your area you can:

Write to: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire & Inverclyde Area HQ  
5 Thornhill  
Johnstone  
PA5 8JH

Phone: 01505 356634

Visit our website: [www.firescotland.gov.uk](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk)

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# Renfrewshire Local Plan

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Closes 26 Jun 2017

## Introduction

### 1. What is your name?

Name

### 2. What is your email address?

If you enter your email address then you will automatically receive an acknowledgement email when you submit your response.

Email

### 3. Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

(Required)

Individual

Organisation

#### 4. What is your organisation?

Organisation

#### 5. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

(Required)

- Publish my response
- Don't publish response

#### 6. Do you agree with the priorities set out in your Local Fire and Rescue Plan?

(Required)

- Agree
- Mostly Agree
- Don't Agree

If you don't fully agree, what do you think the SFRS priorities for your local area should be?

**7. Does your Local Fire and Rescue Plan give you enough information on why these priorities have been identified?**

(Required)

- Agree
- Mostly Agree
- Don't Agree

If you don't fully agree, what further information do you need?

**8. Is what we intend to do to achieve these priorities clear?**

(Required)

- Agree
- Mostly Agree
- Don't Agree

If you don't fully agree, what further information do you need?

**9. Is how we intend to measure our performance clear?**

(Required)

- Agree
- Mostly Agree
- Don't Agree

If you don't fully agree, what further information do you need?

**10. Is it clear how the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will work in partnership to contribute to the delivery of other community priorities?**

(Required)

- Agree
- Mostly Agree
- Don't Agree

If you don't fully agree, what further information do you need?

**11. If you would like to provide any further comments you can do so here.**

## Further comments

**Save and come back later...**

**Continue >**

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# Renfrewshire Local Plan

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Closes 26 Jun 2017



## Equality

These optional questions are for people responding as an individual only.

Monitoring service users profile can help us to evaluate whether the priorities contained within your Local Fire and Rescue Plan are effective and will benefit your local communities. We can also use monitoring to determine whether our services are accessible, whether our policies have a disproportionate, unfair or positive impact on particular groups and whether members of those groups are satisfied with the service they receive. Please tick your preferred option:

### 12. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say

### 13. Your age:

- Under 16

- 16-25
- 26-40
- 41-55
- 56-70
- Over 70
- Prefer not to say

#### **14. Your gender identity:**

---

▶ [More Information](#)

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- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

#### **15. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?**

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

#### **16. Your ethnicity:**

- White Scottish
- White Other British
- White Irish

- White Gypsy Traveller
- White Polish
- Mixed or multiple ethnic group
- Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British: Pakistani
- Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British: Indian
- Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British: Bangladeshi
- Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British: Chinese
- African: African, African Scottish or African British
- African: Black, Black Scottish or Black British
- African: Other
- Caribbean, Caribbean Scottish or Caribbean British
- Black, Black Scottish or Black British
- Arab, Arab Scottish or Arab British
- Other ethnic group
- Prefer not to say

If you chose an 'other' option please state your ethnicity here

## 17. Your sexual orientation

- Heterosexual
- Gay/Lesbian
- Bisexual
- Prefer not to say

## 18. Your religion or belief:

- None
- Church of Scotland
- Roman Catholic
- Other Christian
- Muslim
- Sikh
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Buddhist
- Other religion
- Prefer not to say

If you chose 'other' please state your religion or belief here:

< **Back**

« **First**

**Save and come back later...**

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**Renfrewshire  
Local Fire and Rescue Plan  
Review 2014 - 2017**

**Renfrewshire  
Local Fire and Rescue Plan  
Review 2014 - 2017**



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## Introduction

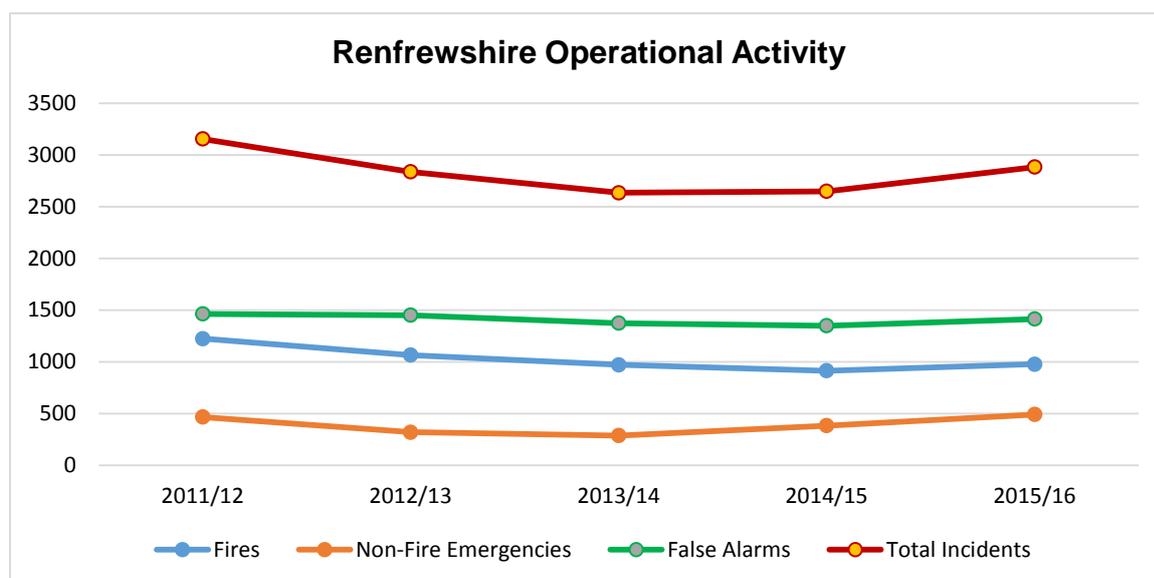
The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) is required under the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 as amended to prepare Local Fire and Rescue Plans for each local authority in Scotland. Following the publication of our Strategic Plan in 2013, our first Local Plans were published in April 2014.

These plans were developed to direct the Service through its initial consolidation journey and have helped to forge our place as a national organisation with a strong sense of local accountability. Against the drive of public sector reform, the local planning landscape continues to evolve to provide a greater focus on protecting the most vulnerable and improving community outcomes through collaborative working.

The publication of our new three-year Strategic Plan in October 2016 now instigates a timely requirement to carry out a mandatory review of all Local Fire and Rescue Plans. This review will provide us with information on how well we are performing against our existing priorities as well as highlighting areas for continued improvement and opportunities for change against the growing needs of our communities.

## Performance Data – what the figures told us

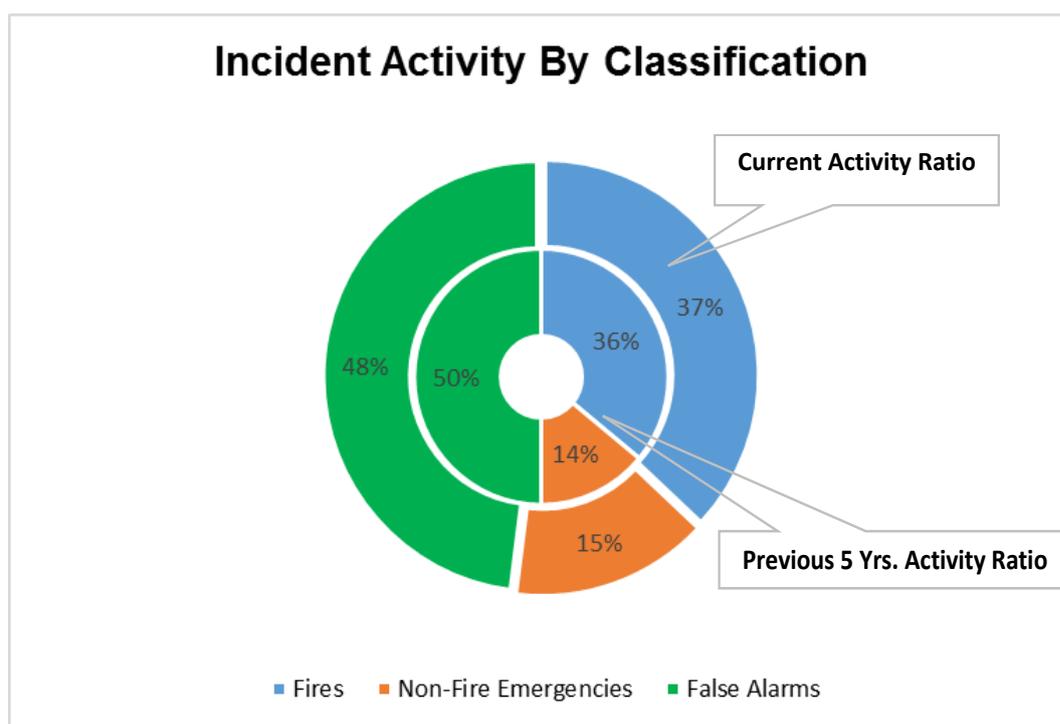
Over the past five years within Renfrewshire, the SFRS responded to an average of 2832 incidents each year. Review of operational demand has indicated a downward trend overall, with activity levels decreasing by 3% between 2011 and 2016. For the current fiscal monitoring period, activity levels reviewed on the 30 January 2017 indicated a 10% increase when compared to the same period last year.



## Incident Numbers 2011 to 2016

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Fires	1225	1066	972	914	977
Non-Fire Emergencies	467	320	288	384	492
False Alarms	1463	1451	1374	1350	1414
<b>Total Incidents</b>	<b>3155</b>	<b>2837</b>	<b>2634</b>	<b>2648</b>	<b>2883</b>

The review of operational demand has identified False Alarms being the most common type of incidents attended within Renfrewshire and have accounted for 50% of mobilisations with Fires and Non-Fire Emergencies (Special Services) accounting for 36% and 14% respectively. Review of activity during the current fiscal monitoring period (Apr 2016 – March 2017) has determined minimal change in the demand ratio across these incident classifications.



As part of the process of scrutiny the SFRS are responsible for the submission of performance reports to Renfrewshire Council Housing and Community Safety Policy Board. The basis of these reports is to report on the progress the SFRS is making against the priorities contained within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17 for Renfrewshire. The first two targets set (Table1) followed the High Level Performance Indicators set within the

Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013, with the remaining four targets defined at a local level.

The current progress against the rolling three-year average indicates five priorities above the three-year average and one priority currently below the three-year average. We assess each of the targets that follow using a Red, Amber or Green indication of our performance. Green means we have achieved or exceeded the target; Amber means we did not achieve the target but achieved a reduction in the three-year average figure and Red means we have not achieved the target and have seen an increase in the three-year average figure.

**Table 1**

<b>Current Local Fire and Rescue Plan Priorities for Renfrewshire</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>Target*</b>	<b>RAG**</b>
1 - Reducing Accidental Dwelling Fires by 10% each year	223	221	207	195	●
2 - Reducing Fire Casualties and Fire Fatalities by 5% each year	60	32	39	41	●
3 - Reducing Casualties From Non-Fire Emergencies by 5% each year	68	82	127	88	●
4 - Reducing Deliberate Fire Setting by 5% each year	604	543	627	562	●
5 - Reducing Fires in Non-Domestic Property by 5% each year	76	84	88	79	●
6 - Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals by 5% each year	1374	1350	1414	1310	●

\*2016/17 target based on rolling three-year average \*\*Current progress against three-year average

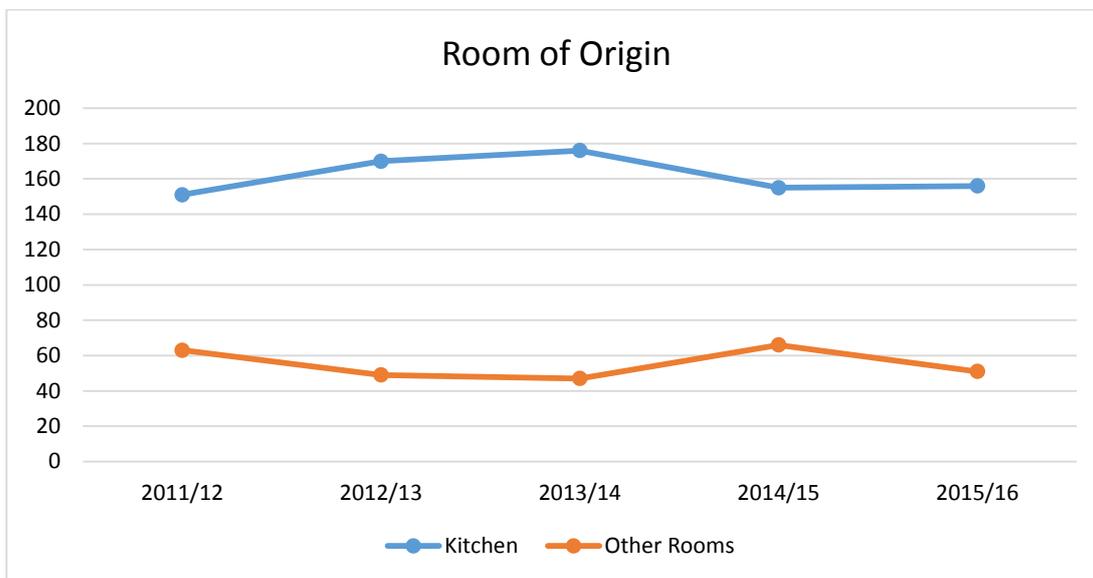
## Reducing Accidental Dwelling Fires by 10% each year



### Performance Explained

Current progression towards the three year average target for 2016/17 is classed as **Green** due to a positive reduction in the number of accidental dwelling fires this year.

Analysis of accidental dwelling fires over the past 5 years have determined the most common cause being attributed to cooking related activity, accounting for 65% of all accidental dwelling fire incidents. The kitchen as a room of origin accounts for over 70% of all domestic fires.



The severity of fires within the home can vary from the incident being dealt with by the occupier with little or no damage occurring to incidents where direct firefighting is undertaken by the SFRS. On average in Renfrewshire only 1 in 5 incidents require the SFRS to undertake direct firefighting.

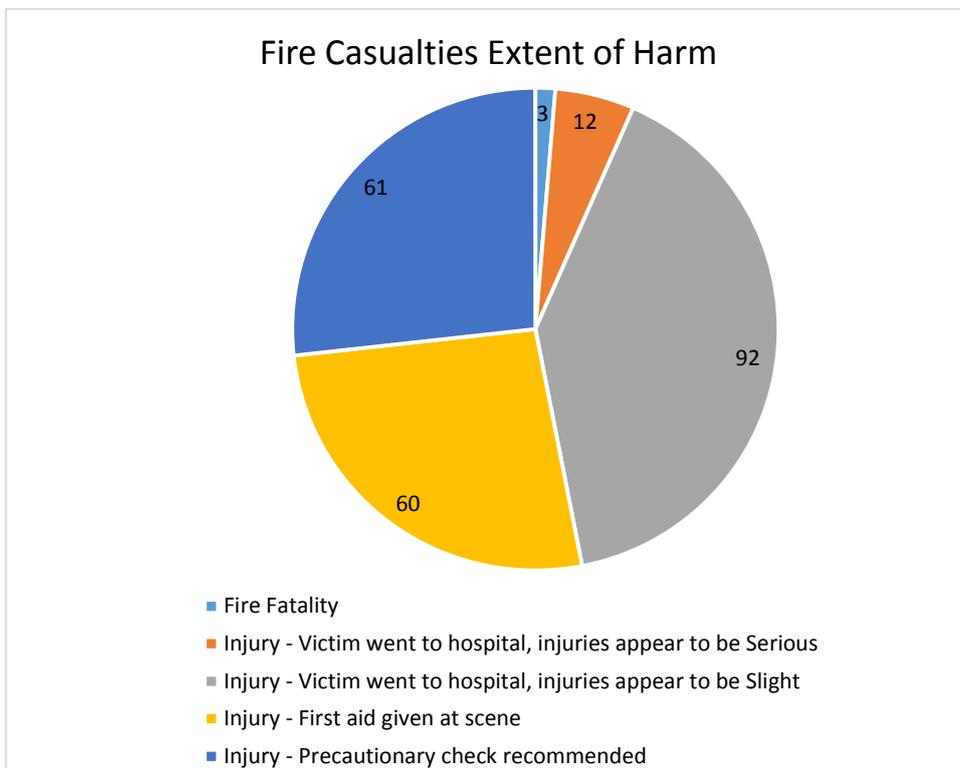
Early warning is key to alerting occupants and over the last five years, 83% of properties affected by fire had smoke or heat detection present which has raised the alarm on 60% of occasions with 20% originating from domestic linked alarm systems. On average just under 65% of incidents attended by SFRS resulted in no fire damage to properties; this positive trend in reduction of fire damage is in direct correlation to the increased level of fitted smoke and heat detection.

**Performance Explained**

Current progression towards the three-year average target for 2016/17 is classed as **Green** as current activity is below the three year average. On average 89% of all fire fatalities and casualties within Renfrewshire arose from accidental dwelling fires.

Analysis of accidental dwelling fire fatalities and casualties has identified a link to fires within the kitchen accounting on average for 50% of incidents where injuries arise. Most common human contributory factor has been identified as ‘Distraction’. Whilst the number of persons recorded as accidental dwelling fire casualties has seen an increase in the previous two years, review of the nature of injuries has determined the majority of recorded casualties (53%) were treated at the scene and did not require to attend hospital for treatment.

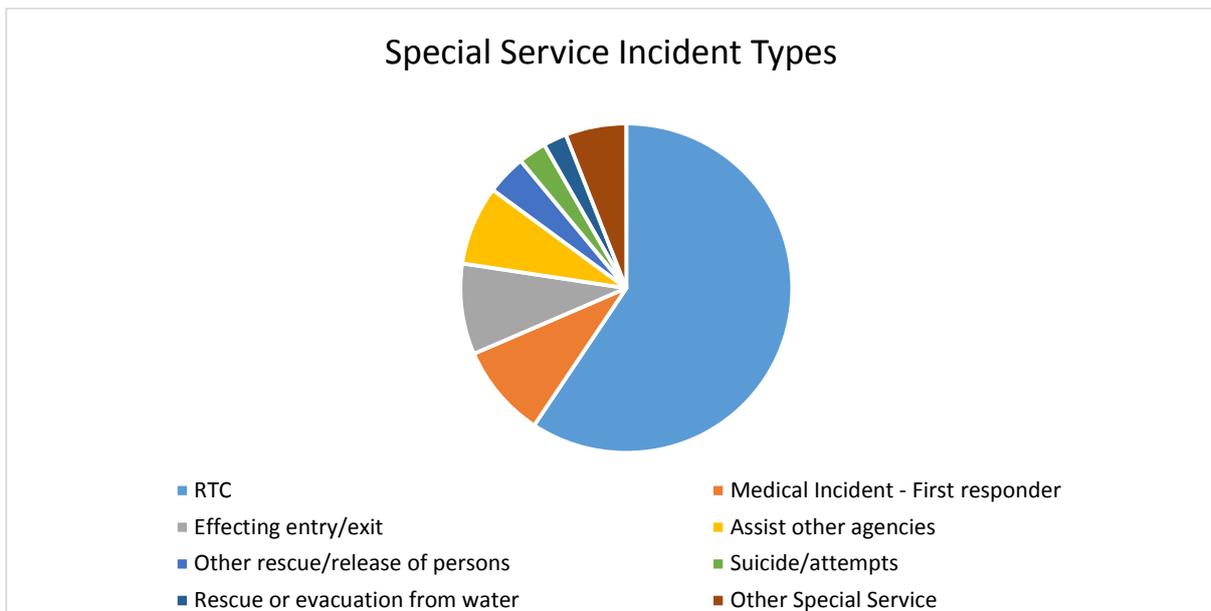
Of the 170 casualties recorded at accidental dwelling fires, only 5 have attended hospital having sustained serious injuries. Smoke inhalation has been identified as the most common cause of injury. Nearly half of all accidental dwelling fire casualties are aged 50 years and over with males accounting for the majority of all accidental dwelling fire casualties. This profile does not reflect the current Scottish trend which shows females over the age of 50 years of age to be the highest risk group related to fire.



**Performance Explained**

Current progression towards the three-year average target for 2016/17 is classed as **Red** with an upward trend evident at this time. Whilst overall the number of Non-Fire Emergency (Special Service) incidents is low compared to Fire and Unwanted Fire Alarm incidents, fatal and non-fatal casualties arising from Special Service incidents exceed those from accidental dwelling fires. In reviewing data over the last 5 years, the rate of special service fatal and non-fatal casualties is showing an increase trend line.

In reviewing the previous special service activity, attendances at Road Traffic Collisions accounted for 57% of all special service casualties within Renfrewshire. An additional 29% of casualties have been recorded over the last five years as a result of attending incidents to either assist other agencies, forcing entry into premises to render assistance to occupants, the provision of medical response or to assist in body recovery.

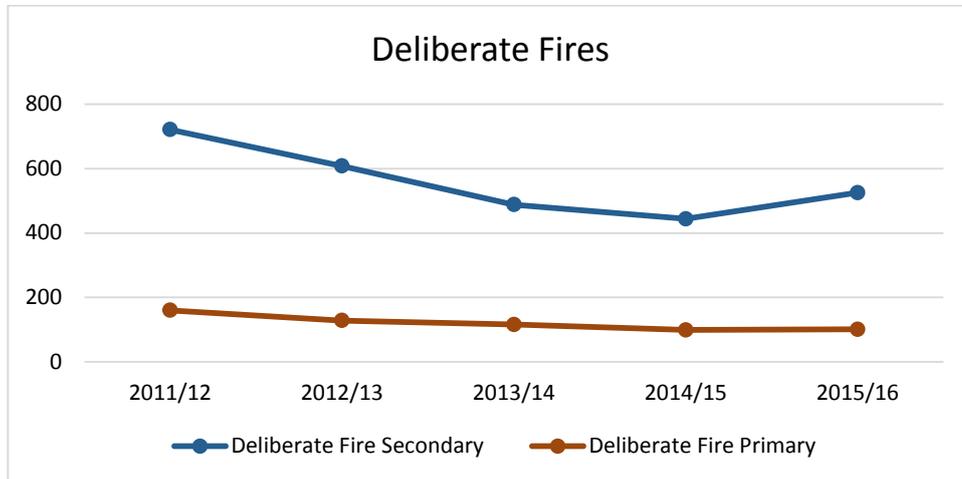


Unlike accidental dwelling fire casualties, the majority of special service casualties (70%) attend hospital; of these 48% are deemed to have sustained slight injuries with 14% deemed to have serious or life threatening injuries. Of all recorded injuries, both fatal and non-fatal, males accounted for 60% of all recorded casualties with all persons between the ages of 20 and 59 being the most prevalent age group for special service fatalities and casualties.



**Performance Explained**

Current progression towards the three-year average target for 2016/17 is classed as **Red** as current activity is above the three year average, and a continued upward trend has been noted at this time. On average deliberate fire raising accounts for 66% of all fire related activity within Renfrewshire.

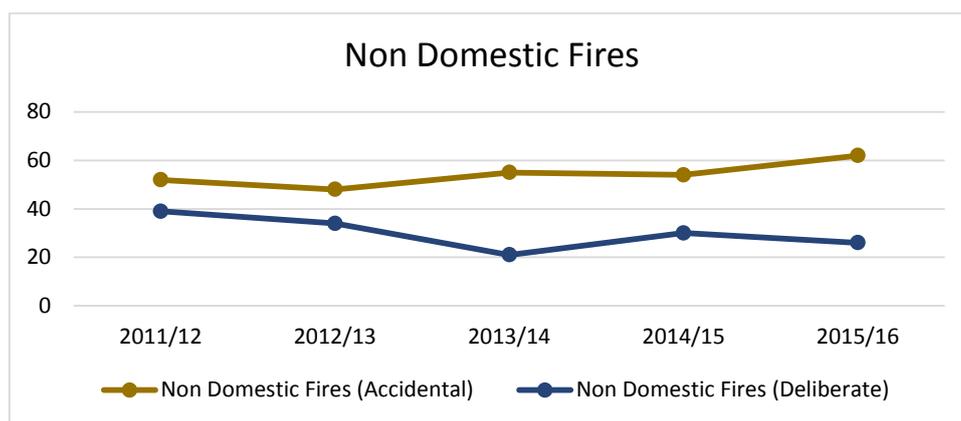


In terms of total activity deliberate fires have accounted for 24% of all operational incidents within Renfrewshire, with 20% of all mobilisations being to secondary fire incidents. Deliberate refuse fires account for just under 45% of all secondary fire activity within Renfrewshire with other outdoor fires involving wildland, trees and vegetation being the second most common (34%) secondary fire types. Deliberate primary fires have seen a reduction of 37% over the past five years with current activity slightly under the five year average.

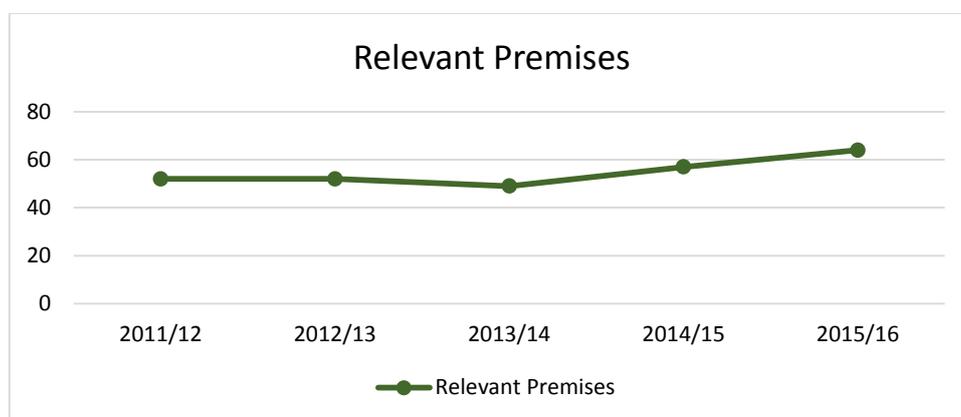
**Performance Explained**

Current progression towards the three-year average target for 2016/17 is classed as **Green** with a downward trend evident at this time. Whilst overall the number of non-domestic fires account for only 3% of all operational mobilisations, just over 85% of all non-domestic fires involve premises within the Business or Service sectors.

In reviewing the previous 5 years activity for non-domestic fires, just under three quarters of all incidents (74%) are classed as accidental in origin.



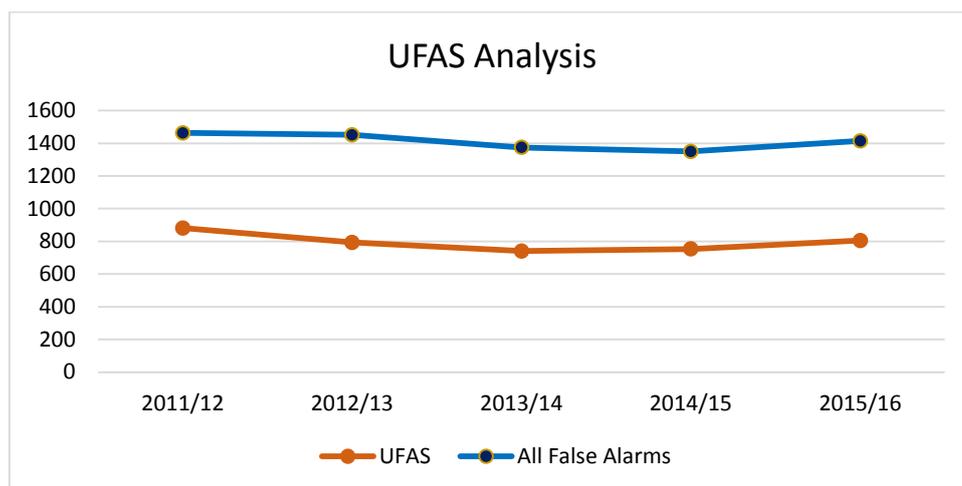
Business and Service sector premises normally fall within the scope of Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) act 2005 as amended and are classed as 'Relevant Premises'. Given the importance of the protection of the local economy, monitoring of activity within Relevant Premises is ongoing in conjunction with a programme of fire safety enforcement audits. Current analysis identified a year on year increase in fires within Relevant Premises since 2013/14; however 73% of all incidents have resulted in no or very limited fire damage. Minor electrical faults in light fittings causing smell of burning and contained damage are one example of the incident type attended by SFRS within relevant premises.





**Performance Explained**

Current progression towards the three-year average target for 2016/17 is classed as **Red** with a slight increase in the three year average noted at this time and the year on year figure also slightly increasing. In total, all false alarms account for 50% of all operational mobilisations. Various types of false alarms fall into this category with Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) having been identified as the cause of 56% of all false alarms. In reviewing data over the last 5 years, the rate of UFAS incidents have fluctuated year on year with a notable increase over the two previous reporting periods. (2015 to 2017)



In reviewing the previous 5 years activity for UFAS incidents, weekdays indicate the greatest prevalence of UFAS incidents with the period between 0800 hours and 1600 hours being the most common time period for UFAS incidents. Review of the data suggests these instances, on a general basis may be related to the most frequent periods of when buildings are occupied. In examining the cause of alarms, a number of factors may be attributed to the building occupants contributing to the alarm operating such as cooking, testing of the system, or accidentally/carelessly setting off the alarm, which over the previous 5 years has accounted for 40% of all alarm activations.

Review of the property types responsible for UFAS incidents has identified residential homes, hospital/medical care facilities and schools as the most common property types which the SFRS attend, which collectively over the past 5 years has been responsible for 40% of all UFAS incidents.

## **Engagement – what our stakeholders told us**

Building on the intelligence we gathered during the engagement and consultation of our Strategic Plan 2016-19 we re-engaged with our key stakeholders to seek further views on our local service delivery.

Feedback identified the SFRS's engagement with young people and our communities as a strength and whilst the SFRS is a national organisation it is seen as having the ability to deliver its services on a local basis. Comments also suggested the SFRS should consider how it can develop further opportunities to share resources and further strengthen its partnership links including those within the Third Sector.

It was recognised that persons at risk are often known to other organisations therefore areas such as information sharing; joint training and an integrated joint response within a partnership environment could enhance the safety and well-being of those at risk within our communities. Feedback also highlighted the need to consider the provision of services and support to persons who are sensory impaired and this was highlighted as a common challenge across organisations. Overall an underlying theme was one where the SFRS should continue to promote the safety and well-being within the home environment.

## **Scrutiny – what we learned from the HM Fire Service Inspectorate (HMFSI)**

To support this formal review the outcomes from HMFSI's Local Area Inspections that examine the development and delivery of Local Fire and Rescue Plans, have also been considered.

By undertaking inspections of our service delivery within local authority areas, HMFSI can provide independent assurance to Scottish Ministers and the public that adequate provision for local service delivery is being made, there is equal access to specialist resources, service provision and partnership working is of sound quality and strong scrutiny arrangements are in place. This allows HMFSI to maintain a good awareness of how well we are functioning and build intelligence to inform future inspections.

By the end of the period 2016/17 it is planned that the SFRS service provision will have been examined in nine local authority areas. These areas included Aberdeen City, East Renfrewshire, Western Isles, West Lothian, Dundee, South Ayrshire, Scottish Borders, Moray and Glasgow City. Once prepared, these inspection reports are published by HMFSI on their website.

On examining the published Local Area Inspection Reports, we noted that HMFSI generally felt that there was a need to identify unique characteristics for each local area and provide clearer use of risk-based evidence to identify and shape priorities across our Local Plans.

HMFSI would also like to see a stronger emphasis made on specific local priorities and contribution supported by an appropriate level of local performance measures. Local priorities and measures should be balanced against our national needs as well as aligned to the collaborative partnership working requirements of Local Outcome Improvement Plan delivery.

## **Conclusion**

In reviewing the progress against the priorities within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Renfrewshire (2014 – 2017), it has been identified that operational demand in the longer term has been reducing, however review of activity during the current fiscal year indicates fluctuations in operational demand has been occurring.

A key approach to reducing demand is through effective engagement and by working in partnership to support our more vulnerable members within our communities. As a national organisation the SFRS is also progressing with its transformational agenda to develop the organisation in an environment of continuous financial challenges. This presents opportunities for the SFRS to develop its role at a local level in the protection of our communities across Renfrewshire through the strengthening of existing partnerships, whilst seeking new partnership approaches to manage, mitigate and reduce risk.

To support the pursuance of transformational efficiencies, reducing service demand is essential to provide the means to utilise the totality of SFRS resources to maximum benefit. It is recognised however, regardless of how active the SFRS is in its prevention agenda, operational demand will still be present. It is therefore vital to ensure the SFRS is able to respond as and when such demand arises. The process of identifying and reviewing the range of risks within our communities will provide the basis as to how we will manage and respond to such risks to safeguard the safety of our firefighters and our communities.

The review of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Renfrewshire over the period 2014 – 2017 has considered the progress that has been made to date and supported the development of key priorities for the next plan. Meeting the challenges in the new plan will not be achieved in isolation but through effective partnership working and as such, the new Local Fire and Rescue Plan will seek to compliment and contribute to the integrated approach to Community Planning within Renfrewshire.

## **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the following priorities are taken forward in the new Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Renfrewshire area:

Priority 1: Domestic Safety

Priority 2: Unintentional Injury and Harm

Priority 3: Deliberate Fire Setting

Priority 4: Non-Domestic Fires

Priority 5: Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Priority 6: Operational Resilience and Preparedness