

**To: Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board**

**On: 31 August 2016**

**Report by:**

Shona MacDougall, Director of Community Resources, Renfrewshire Council

**Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Plan Review Consultation 2016-2019**

## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 On 31 May the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) published a consultation on its draft Strategic Plan 2016 – 2019. A copy of the draft Strategic Plan is available on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Consultation Hub.
- 1.2 The draft plan sets out the commitments of the Fire and Rescue Service for the next 3 years and establishes how the Service will seek to improve community safety, its response and resilience and address inequality while enhancing the wellbeing of the people of Scotland.
- 1.3 The attached draft Strategic Plan is structured to achieve 5 Outcomes:
  - Our communities are more resilient and people live their lives safe from harm;
  - We are responsive and flexible in meeting community needs;
  - Our people are supported and have opportunities to realise their potential;
  - We protect our natural environment and reduce our impact on it;
  - We are a high quality, continuously improving, efficient public service.
- 1.4 The plan identifies 6 key strategic priority areas to support delivery of these outcomes:
  - Improved Local Outcomes;
  - National and Community Resilience;
  - Modernising Response;
  - Workforce Development;
  - Governance and Social Responsibility;
  - Transformation.
- 1.5 The intention is that these priorities will define the overall direction of the service as it responds to the financial challenges ahead and works to make communities across Scotland safer and stronger through delivery of the Service's outcomes.
- 1.6 The final date for submissions to the consultation was 9 August 2016. A response from the Council was submitted within the timescales set by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and is attached as Appendix 1 for the information of members of the Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic.

## 2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board:

- a) Notes the consultation on the draft SFRS Strategic Plan (2016 – 2019);
- b) Notes Renfrewshire Council's submitted consultation response as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report.

## 3. Background

3.1 The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service came into force as a single body in 2013 following the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012.

3.2 The first Scottish Fire and Rescue Service strategic plan was produced in 2013 and principally focused on integrating the eight former fire and rescue services operating across Scotland into the national fire and rescue service.

3.3 The draft strategy being consulted on is split into 2 main parts:

- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – who they are, values, challenges, workforce and performance,
- The proposed Scottish Fire and Rescue Service 6 key strategic priority areas:
  - o Improved Local Outcomes;
  - o National and Community Resilience;
  - o Modernising Response;
  - o Workforce Development;
  - o Governance and Social Responsibility;
  - o Transformation.

### Improved Local Outcomes

3.4 The draft Strategic Plan makes clear that the numbers of accidental dwelling fires have reduced significantly in the period since 1999 and that this has been driven by very successful partnership working. The connection is made that the individuals that have died as a result of accidental fires are most usually known to a range of other agencies and are amongst the most vulnerable members of society. On that basis the emphasis in improving local outcomes is linked very strongly to ongoing partnership working with Councils and Community Planning partners with a focus on vulnerable communities that relates very strongly to the focus of the Renfrewshire Community Plan.

3.5 In addition the nature of outcomes being sought is also widened – the focus on fire safety is giving way to a focus on wider individual and community safety and in particular victims of unintended harm that is also being driven through the national Building Safer Communities strategy. Overall the strategic priority around improved local outcomes and the explanation and focus that is being promoted within the draft plan fit very well with the strategic agenda being taken forward by the Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership.

### National and Community Resilience

- 3.6 The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service plays a critical role alongside the Civil Contingencies Service and Police Scotland in developing national and community resilience. In particular the approach to planning for specific hazards and threats using risk identification to decide on proportionate planning is used extensively in Renfrewshire and fits well with the wider approach to planning for civil contingencies being developed in Renfrewshire.

### **Modernising Response**

- 3.7 In this priority the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is able to use evidence to demonstrate the changing nature of the incidents that they are involved in and the dramatic increase in numbers of incidents in which they are working in a partnership role with other agencies. Locally this is apparent, with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service playing an active role in Community Planning – particularly on the Safer and Stronger Thematic Board and working closely as a key partner in the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership. This is valued and is helping the wider partnership to deliver results that are strengthening communities and supporting their resilience

### **Workforce Development**

- 3.8 A key priority for Scottish Fire and Rescue Service that focuses on the way the service will develop its workforce with the objective of remaining an employer of choice with a well trained, highly skilled, engaged and resilient workforce.

### **Governance and Social Responsibility**

- 3.9 Like all partners and public bodies, Governance and in particular transparency is key for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. The systematic management of risk is fundamental to both their strategic and operational decision making process and is clearly expressed within this strategic priority. Of particular note and relevance to the Council is the commitment to pay the living wage to employees and the role of the service as a Corporate Parent – particularly to children who are, or have been in care.

### **Transformation**

- 3.10 A key priority for Scottish Fire and Rescue Service that focuses on the way the service will develop its operating systems and procedures to be more efficient and more effective.

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## **Draft Strategic Plan 2016-19**

### **Overview**

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service invites views on its draft Strategic Plan 2016-19. A cornerstone of our ongoing development of the Service, it will ensure we remain fully committed to improving the safety and wellbeing of Scotland's communities.

### **Why we are consulting**

We want to hear views on our ambition to balance national priorities with the needs of local communities both now and in the future. The consultation is open for ten weeks, closing on 9 August 2016.

Your views matter and we hope you will help us to shape the future of fire and rescue in Scotland.

### **Where to send your response**

Please send your written response to Alison Hastings, Performance and Strategic Planning Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Brooms Road, Dumfries, DG1 2DZ to arrive by 9 August 2016.

### **What happens next**

Following the closing date, all responses will be analysed and considered along with any other available evidence. We aim to issue the findings of the consultation process in due course on the 'We asked, you said, we did' page of our Consultation Hub, at:

[firescotland.citizenspace.com](http://firescotland.citizenspace.com)

### **Introduction**

What is your name?

*(Optional)*

Do you represent an organisation, group or team? If so, please give its name here:

Renfrewshire Council

Are you a member of Scottish Fire and Rescue Service staff?

No |

### **Our Outcomes. Priorities and Objectives**

*These are shown in full at the end of this document.*

1 Have we chosen the right outcomes?

We have identified five outcomes. These are our long term goals.

Yes |

Comments

Overall Renfrewshire Council is supportive of the 5 outcomes identified within the draft Strategic Plan 2016 – 2019. While 3 of the outcomes relate particularly to how the organisation itself will develop 2 have a particular and wider relevance to Renfrewshire.

The particular focus on developing the resilience of communities and ensuring that residents and visitors can live lives safe from harm aligns directly with the objectives agreed within the Safer and Stronger Theme of the Renfrewshire Community Plan while the focus on protecting our natural environment and reducing our impact on it reflects the priorities and objectives of the Greener Theme.

## 2 Have we chosen the right priorities?

To work towards our outcomes, we have identified six priorities. These are the areas we will focus on over the coming three years.

Yes |

### Comments

Overall the 6 priority outcome areas are welcomed by Renfrewshire Council and reflect priorities that closely align with the commitments and priorities that the Council has identified within its own plans or with its partners through the Renfrewshire Community Plan and Tackling Poverty Strategy. A number of comments are made in relation to each of the priorities below:

#### **Improved Local Outcomes**

The draft Strategic Plan makes clear that the numbers of accidental dwelling fires have reduced significantly in the period since 1999 and that this has been driven by very successful partnership working. The connection is made that the individuals that have died as a result of accidental fires are most usually known to a range of other agencies and are amongst the most vulnerable members of society. On that basis the emphasis in improving local outcomes is linked very strongly to ongoing partnership working with Councils and Community Planning partners with a focus on vulnerable communities that relates very strongly to the focus of the Renfrewshire Community Plan, the Council Plan and the Renfrewshire Tackling Poverty strategy.

In addition the nature of outcomes being sought is also widened – the focus on fire safety is giving way to a focus on wider individual and community safety and in particular victims of unintended harm that is also being driven through the national Building Safer Communities strategy. Overall therefore, the strategic priority around improved local outcomes and the explanation and focus that is being promoted within the draft plan fit very well with the strategic agenda being taken forward by the Council and is welcomed.

#### **National and Community Resilience**

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service plays a critical role alongside the Civil Contingencies Service and Police Scotland in developing national and community resilience. Overall the focus on this area of work is welcomed. In particular the approach to planning for specific hazards and threats using risk identification to decide on proportionate planning is used extensively in Renfrewshire and fits well with the wider approach to planning for civil contingencies being developed in Renfrewshire.

#### **Modernising Response**

In this priority the use of evidence to demonstrate the changing nature of the incidents that the Service are involved in and the dramatic increase in numbers of incidents in which the Service is working in a partnership role with other agencies is powerful. Locally, within Renfrewshire this trend is apparent, with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service playing an active role in Community Planning – particularly on the Safer and Stronger Thematic Board and working closely as a key partner in the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership.

This is valued and is helping the wider partnership to deliver results that are strengthening communities and supporting their resilience

### **Workforce Development**

A key priority for Scottish Fire and Rescue Service that focuses on the way the service will develop its workforce with the objective of remaining an employer of choice with a well trained, highly skilled, engaged and resilient workforce.

### **Governance and Social Responsibility**

Like all partners and public bodies, Governance and in particular transparency is key for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. The systematic management of risk is fundamental to both strategic and operational decision making processes and is clearly expressed within this strategic priority. Of particular note and relevance to the Council is the commitment to pay the living wage to employees and the role of the service as a Corporate Parent – particularly to children who are, or have been in care. – Both of these commitments are particularly welcomed.

### **Transformation**

A key priority for Scottish Fire and Rescue Service that focuses on the way the service will develop its operating systems and procedures to be more efficient and more effective.

3 Have we chosen the right objectives?

Our objectives are the key activities we will carry out to support our priorities. Yes |

Comments

The objectives identified are appropriate and welcomed by the Council.

4 Have you any other views on our draft Strategic Plan 2016-19? Tell us here

Overall the relationship with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service locally in Renfrewshire is strong and productive. Excellent Community Planning partnership working is delivering good results in supporting communities, strengthening resilience and protecting the public. The objectives priorities and outcomes identified within the draft Strategic Plan should build on and enhance these productive working relationships.