

To: Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub-Committee

On: 18 January 2022

Report by: Director of Communities and Housing Services

Heading: Response to the Next Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland Consultation

1. Summary

- 1.1. On 29 September 2021, the Scottish Government published a consultation document seeking the views of important stakeholders on the next Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland ('the Framework').
 - 1.2. The Framework sets out Scottish Ministers' expectations of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and provides SFRS with strategic priorities and objectives, together with guidance on how the delivery of its functions should contribute to the Scottish Government's Purpose and National Outcomes.
 - 1.3. The full consultation paper can be found at –
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/fire-rescue-framework-scotland-consultation/documents/>
 - 1.4. The response to the consultation from the Council was submitted within the timescales set by the Scottish Government with the final date for submissions to the consultation being 22 December 2021.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee:
 - (i) homologates the action to submit the consultation response, attached as appendix 1, to the Scottish Government in line with the required timescale of 22 December 2021.
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3. Background

- 3.1. Scottish Ministers have a statutory duty to prepare a Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland setting priorities and objectives and providing guidance to SFRS on the execution of its functions. SFRS has a statutory duty to have regard to the Framework when preparing its Strategic Plan which sets out how it will deliver its functions as well as setting out the outcomes which will be used to measure its performance in doing so.
 - 3.2. The Framework sets out 7 strategic priorities for SFRS which are outcome-focused and set within the context of the Scottish Government's purpose. These priorities form the basis for the narrative of the Framework. Many of these priorities are overarching and are relevant to several aspects of SFRS's role.
 - 3.3. The 7 Strategic priorities are
 - Prevention and Protection
 - Response
 - Innovation and Modernisation
 - Climate Change
 - Effective Governance and Performance
 - People
 - Partnership
 - 3.4. The response from Renfrewshire Council, attached as appendix 1, agrees that these are the right 7 priorities to be included in the next Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland.
 - 3.5. Responses will be analysed by the Scottish Government and used as part of its decision making process, along with a range of other available information and evidence. The Scottish Government will publish a report of this analysis.
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Implications of this report

1. **Financial** - none
2. **HR and Organisational Development** - none
3. **Community/Council Planning** - none
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 because it is for noting only.

- 8. **Health and Safety** - none
 - 9. **Procurement** - none
 - 10. **Risk** - none
 - 11. **Privacy Impact** - none
 - 12. **COSLA Policy Position** - none
 - 13. **Climate Risk** - none
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List of Background Papers

None

Questions

1. Do you agree with the text set out in the section for Strategic Priority 1 of the next Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland in relation to Prevention and Protection?

Yes

Please provide any further comments below

Renfrewshire Council supports and endorses the approach and principles outlined in the wording of Strategic Priority 1. However, would suggest improvements could be made to the section on wider Community Safety, which is an increasingly important element of the work of the service and the service has the opportunity to work as a trusted partner in communities with an impact on saving people from harm or deaths above and beyond fire prevention, protection and safety. This priority should give greater emphasise to what else Scottish Fire and Rescue Service does e.g. Water Safety/Education etc.

The Unwanted Fire Alarm signals (UFAS) could also be higher on the strategic list of priorities. The cost of UFAS to SFRS and therefore the community, should be highlighted to highlight the impact that this can have on communities and the drain on resources otherwise available to tackle wider strategic priorities.

2. Do you agree with the text set out in the section for Strategic Priority 2 of the next Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland in relation to Response?

Yes

Please provide any further comments below

Renfrewshire Council supports and endorses the wording of Strategic Priority 2.

This is noted to be a strong priority, however, Renfrewshire Council questions the use of terminology, in particular with this priority. It often refers to “should” and it would be stronger if at times this was changed to “will”.

Renfrewshire Council further supports the focus on resilience and planning, however, consideration should be given to including changes to legislation i.e. linked fire alarms and the impact this will have alongside the risk part of the strategy.

3. Do you agree with the text set out in the section for Strategic Priority 3 of the next Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland in relation to Innovation and Modernisation?

Yes

Please provide any further comments below

Renfrewshire Council supports and endorses the wording of Strategic Priority 3. This is a strong priority and Renfrewshire Council has no further comments.

4. Do you agree with the text set out in the section for Strategic Priority 4 of the next Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland in relation to Climate Change?

Yes

Please provide any further comments below

Renfrewshire Council supports and endorses the wording of Strategic Priority 4 and the corporate response to the climate emergency outlined. SFRS is a key partner organisation and member of Renfrewshire's Net Zero Network, alongside other public organisations and partnership working will continue to be critical in our response to the climate emergency and the transition to net zero. We will continue our strong partnership working relationship with SFRS across the Renfrewshire area and look at supporting supplementary areas, such as community resilience; initiatives to support staff active travel; active travel links to key employment sites; opportunities for economies of scale/coordinating projects to bring cost savings and increase impacts; opportunities for partnership projects and partnership funding bids across sustainable transport, waste, energy and/or nature and biodiversity. However, consideration should be given as to whether this is a separate priority or whether this sits alongside Priority 2 (resilience & planning).

It is noted that Scottish Fire and Rescue Service have their own Climate Change Response Plan 2045 and that the Service will require to tackle some of the issues related to Climate Change e.g. increased flooding, wildfires, therefore they should be at the forefront of planning. Again, this priority will be strengthened by saying what Scottish Fire and Rescue will do, as to what they should do. Again, there is a need for strong partnership working and linking services to identify those most vulnerable residents in instances of flooding, for example, who would be at higher risk due to being unable to escape rising flood waters as a result of, for example, mobility issues/disabilities.

5. Do you agree with the text set out in the section for Strategic Priority 5 of the next Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland in relation to Effective Governance and Performance?

Yes

Please provide any further comments below

Renfrewshire Council supports and endorses the wording of Strategic Priority 5.

This is a particular strength of Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and should be built upon. The collection of data and its use to improve the service is paramount and should continue to drive the service to offer Best Value.

6. Do you agree with the text set out in the section for Strategic Priority 6 of the next Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland in relation to People?

Yes

Please provide any further comments below

Renfrewshire Council supports and endorses the wording of Strategic Priority 6, whilst acknowledging that this is one mainly for Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Succession planning is important for all organisations and given that the paper sets out an ageing demographic, this will be essential for Scottish Fire and Rescue moving forward.

Health, Safety and Wellbeing, especially mental health are becoming more important and it is good to see this acknowledged within the priority.

7. Do you agree with the text set out in the section for Strategic Priority 7 of the next Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland in relation to Partnership?

Yes

Please provide any further comments below

Renfrewshire Council supports and endorses the wording of Strategic Priority 7.

As a key partner in the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is excellent at partnership working – however, this requires to continue and be a key priority. In particular, Scottish Fire and Rescue should link closely and feed into the Renfrewshire Council Local Outcome Improvement Plan to ensure it aligns with both the priorities of the communities and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

8. Do you think these are the right 7 priorities to be included in the next Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland?

Yes

Please provide any further comments below

There is nothing further to add at this time.

9. Do you think there is anything that is missing from the next Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland that should be included?

No

Please provide any further comments below

There is nothing further to add at this time.