



Local Fire and Rescue Service Plan

Briefing Paper

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This paper provides members with an update in relation to work in progressing the 2014–2017 Local Fire and Rescue Service plan for the Scottish Borders.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board are invited to note the report.

3. Background

- 3.1 It is a requirement under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012¹ that as soon as reasonable practicable following the approval of a Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Strategic Plan, that a local fire and rescue service plan will be prepared for each Local Authority area. Following public consultation the SFRS Strategic Plan is currently laid in the Scottish Parliament for ministerial approval.
- 3.2 The Fire Framework for Scotland 2013² sets out objectives and priorities for the SFRS developed around the four pillars of public service reform; Prevention, Partnership, People and Performance³.
- 3.3 Within the Scottish Borders, under the antecedent fire and rescue service arrangements prior to April 2013, a local fire and rescue service plan has been utilised and is in place. The legislation above formalises that arrangement and places clear responsibilities on the SFRS in preparing the local plan. A key requirement is for the SFRS to secure the approval for the local plan from the Local Authority and when the plan is agreed, to publish it.
- 3.4 The SFRS continues to work hard as part of Community Planning Partnership and Safer Communities Team in the Scottish Borders. We aim to continue to work in partnership and seek opportunities to work more closely to reduce inequalities and promote better outcomes for people living and working in the Scottish Borders. Whilst the local plan highlights the priority areas, we recognise that we must

¹ Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012. Part 2-Sec 115 paragraphs 41 D-K

² Fire Framework for Scotland 2013. www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0041/00416181.pdf

³ Report on the Future Delivery of Public Services. www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/06/27154527/0

continue to maintain the highest quality of service in the wide range of other services we provide.

3. Update and Progress

- 3.1 In recent weeks, work has been on-going to carry out a review of available and relevant information to help inform the planning and preparation of initial priority areas. This has included a review of national and local information and analysis.
- 3.2 The SFRS Strategic Plan contains four Strategic Aims that sets the context for developing the local plan.
 - 1. Improved safety of our communities and staff;
 - 2. More equitable access to fire and rescue services;
 - 3. Improved outcomes through partnership and
 - 4. Develop a culture of continuous improvement.

Having considered the range of national, SFRS and local Scottish Borders data and statistical information on incidents and activity, five priorities have provisionally been identified for inclusion in the local plan (Appendix 1).

- 3.3 The provisional priorities have been cross-referenced with the aligned strategies, which support the Scottish Borders Single Outcome Agreement (SOA), the SFRS strategic aims, the Scottish Government national outcomes and our own SFRS Equality outcomes. Performance measures have been provisionally identified and would require more specific target setting when priorities are eventually agreed. Once agreed, the local plan will be formally reviewed every three years with an annual refresh to ensure it is still relevant.
- 3.4 Running in parallel with the above we are currently preparing the ground to take our early thinking on priorities out to consultation with the public and partners. This will provide the opportunity for consideration of the priorities, feedback and ultimately to ensure that the local plan reflects local issues. We have been building up our stakeholder and partnership register and will seek to work with Community Planning Partners and draw upon the experience and knowledge in consulting across the Scottish Borders.
- 3.5 Information is currently being collated to help inform the equality impact assessment, which will support the draft local plan. We value and recognise the wide range of characteristics and people in Scottish Borders communities and it is vital we develop a plan that helps address inequalities and supports community planning in the widest sense.

4. Outline of Timescales

- 4.1 The aim is to have a fully consulted and agreed local plan for the Scottish Borders in place for the 1 April 2014. To support this, the following is the broad outline of key dates.

- Nov 2013: Initial briefing to Scottish Borders Police, Fire and Rescue Safer Communities Board
- Nov 2013: Meet, Chief Executive SBC, Council leader and Chair of SB, Police, Fire and Rescue Safer Communities Board to discuss and share drafts.
- Dec 2013: Commence public consultation exercise.
- Feb 2014: Provide provisional findings of consultation to Safer communities Board and Community Planning partnership meetings (13 & 14th Feb).
- 27 March 2014: Local Plan to full council meeting (Note* this to be discussed with Chief Executive and Council Leader for direction).
- 1 April 2014: Publish local fire and rescue plan.

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APPENDIX 1. Provisional Priorities and links to National, SFRS, local and equality outcomes

SFRS Priorities	Outcome Measures	Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership SOA and aligned strategies	SFRS Strategic Aims	National Outcomes	SFRS Equality Outcomes
Reduction of dwelling fires	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All deliberate dwelling fires 2. All accidental dwelling fires 	Resilient Communities; Place and whole town plans; Safer communities; Accident Prevention Schemes;; Violence against Women; Older peoples Joint commissioning strategy; Enhanced home fire safety programme; Local housing strategy	1, 2, 3, 4	6, 9, 11, 12	1, 2, 3, 6, 7
Reduction of fire casualties and fatalities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All fatal fire casualties 2. Non-fatal fire casualties including precautionary check ups 3. All fatal accidental dwelling fires 4. Non-fatal accidental dwelling fires including precautionary check ups 	Resilient Communities; Place and whole town plans; Safer communities; Accident Prevention Schemes; Violence against Women; Older peoples Joint commissioning strategy; Enhanced home fire safety programme	1, 2, 3, 4	6, 9, 11, 12, 15	3, 6, 7
Reduction in deliberate fire setting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All deliberate other building fires 2. All deliberate vehicle fires 3. All deliberate 'other' primary fires 4. All deliberate secondary fires 	Resilient Communities; Place and whole town plans; Safer communities; SB Wardens	1, 2, 3, 4	4, 9, 11, 12	3, 6, 7
Reduction in road traffic collisions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Special Service RTC 2. All accidental vehicle fires 	Road Safety;	1, 2, 3, 4	4, 6, 9, 15	2, 3, 7
Reduction of unwanted fire signals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. False Alarms AFAs 2. False alarm good intent 3. False alarm malicious 	Place and whole town plans; Safer communities; Older peoples Joint commissioning strategy; Borders Care and repair	3, 4	1, 6, 8, 9, 12	1