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TWEEDDALE AREA LOCALITY COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY, 14 JUNE, 2017

A MEETING of the TWEEDDALE AREA LOCALITY COMMITTEE will be held in the COUNCIL OFFICES, ROSETTA ROAD, PEEBLES on WEDNESDAY, 14 JUNE 2017 at 6.30 pm

J. J. WILKINSON,
Clerk to the Council,

8 June 2017

BUSINESS		
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Order of Business	
3.	Declarations of Interest	
4.	Vice-Chairman Consider appointment of Vice-Chairman.	2 mins
5.	Minute (Pages 1 - 6) Minute of Meeting of 1 March 2017 for noting. (Copy attached).	2 mins
6.	Presentation - Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Partnership Jane Robertson – Strategic Planning and Development Manager / Stewart Barrie – Locality Co-Ordinator for Teviot and Tweeddale.	20 mins
7.	Presentation - Overview of Tweeddale Neighbourhood Services Jason Hedley – Neighbourhood Area Manager Tweeddale.	15 mins
8.	Open Forum	
9.	Community Council Spotlight	
10.	Police Scotland - Update by Inspector Hodges	15 mins
11.	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Update by S. Mitchell, Station Manager (Pages 7 - 24) Update Report / Local Plan Review Document. (Copies attached.)	15 mins
12.	Localities Committee	15 mins

	Discussion on role and responsibilities.	
13.	Any Other Items Previously Circulated	
14.	Any Other Items which the Chairman Decides Are Urgent	

NOTES

1. **Timings given above are only indicative and not intended to inhibit Members' discussions.**
2. **Members are reminded that, if they have a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in any item of business coming before the meeting, that interest should be declared prior to commencement of discussion on that item. Such declaration will be recorded in the Minute of the meeting.**

Membership of Committee:- Councillors R. Tatler (Chairman), H. Anderson, S. Bell, K. Chapman, S. Haslam, E. Small, Community Councillors Campbell, Howard, Lewin, Parker, Taylor and Tulloch

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SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
TWEEDDALE AREA FORUM

MINUTE of the MEETING of the
TWEEDDALE AREA FORUM held in
the Council Offices, Rosetta Road,
Peebles on 1 March 2017 at 6.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillors W. Archibald (Chairman), S. Bell, C. Bhatia, K. Cockburn, G. Garvie, G. Logan.
Community Councillors L. Hayworth, C. Lewin, M. McIntosh, G. Parker, J. Taylor, G. Tulloch.

Apologies:- Community Councillors M. Douglas, R. Howard, R. Tatler.

In Attendance:- Neighbourhood Assistant Area Manager, Inspector T. Hodges, (Police Scotland), S. Mitchell, AIFireE – Station Manager (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service), Democratic Services Officer (K. Mason).

Members of the Public:- 4.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. The Chairman varied the order of business as shown on the agenda and the Minute reflects the order in which the items were considered at the meeting.

2.1 MINUTE

There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the Meeting held on 23 November 2016 for approval.

**DECISION
APPROVED.**

2.2 With reference to paragraph 11(a) of the Minute, the Neighbourhood Assistant Area Manager tabled a plan relating to the proposed works at the top of the Old Town beside the junction leading to Young Street. The Neighbourhood Assistant Area Manager advised that a traffic island would not be provided. She confirmed that dropped kerbs would be put in place at either side of the road at the top of the Old Town, and it might be necessary for traffic lights to be in place. Patching works would be carried out during the school holidays in April. The Neighbourhood Assistant Area Manager further advised that she would liaise with Mandy Taylor, Business Partner, On a Shoe String regarding the proposals.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

3. PENSION WISE SERVICE

Mr Ian Heard, Pension Wise Guidance Specialist, Citizens Advice Bureau, was present at the meeting to give a presentation on the Pension Wise project which began in 2015 to provide guidance to clients who had Defined Contribution Pension Schemes. The aim was to help people become more aware and knowledgeable about their pension options. The project had now been running for two years. The initial funding was for the Scottish Borders area but as the initial take up was lower than expected at the end of the first year he was asked to cover Dumfries and Annan to retain the full time position. Whilst the current position was still to be confirmed it looked like the funding would be reduced from 1 June 2017 meaning his hours would be reduced although the project was planned to continue. Since the beginning of the

project the job had grown considerably to cover not only Pension Wise appointments but also promotion, training of Bureau volunteers, attending PACE events, meeting Councillors, MP's, MSP's and various other roles. Appointment numbers had grown steadily over the two years because of continued national advertising and also the considerable work being done locally to promote the service. There was a 40% increase in total appointments from this time last year. Initially the project was set up to be a one appointment only service. However, owing to the complexities of pensions and also the fact that clients wanted to re-check facts before making a big decision meant that Pension Wise were now able to see people more than once. The major issues covered were six options open to clients, also providing information on the potential impact on tax and state benefits which could help prevent major issues in terms of losing benefit or having a large tax bill. Mr Heard went on to give details relating to promotional and other activities. Statistics provided by Ipsos/Mori had shown 92% of clients surveyed had been satisfied with the service provided. Online guidance was available from www.pensionwise.gov.uk; telephone appointments on 0300 330 1001 or at the local Citizens Advice Bureau. For the avoidance of scamming Community Councillor Taylor recommended that Pension Wise set up a link with the Scottish Public Pensions Agency.

DECISION

NOTED and thanked Mr Heard for his informative presentation.

4. POLICE SCOTLAND

Inspector Hodges highlighted there had been 3 serious assaults (all detected) as opposed to 7 this time last year. There had been 57 Common Assaults (60% detected to date) as opposed to 58 this time last year. These figures buck the current trends for this policing division and whilst every assault is one to many, he hoped it was reassuring that violent crime was not seeing any rise in the Tweeddale Area. It was difficult to give an evidenced based rationale for this but the good working relationship with the licensed premises in the Tweeddale Area fostered through the local licensing board must take some of the credit. There were 455 incidents of reported Anti-Social Behaviour as opposed to 534 this time last year. This was also a significant decrease in comparison with the rest of the region and the ongoing partnership approach fostered by the SBC Anti-Social Behaviour Unit and the local housing associations was undoubtedly paying dividend. He explained that Dishonesty was the area which was causing him most concern in relation to both Tweeddale East and West. He had highlighted this at the November Forum and Police Scotland had seen a continuation of Acquisition Crime across the area on a very unwelcome basis since the turn of the year. Thefts of motorcars, motorcycles, pedal cycles and housebreakings continued to feature and as previously reported were very much connected with criminality in Edinburgh and the Lothians. Whilst rural policing in the hours of darkness could often be the proverbial needle in a haystack, the combined efforts which Police Scotland afforded was ensuring the current issues in Tweeddale were not lost in the bigger picture. He submitted that when a car thief sentenced to a year in prison at Edinburgh Sheriff Court, the reality was that he or his associates were highly likely to have been responsible for crime in this area. He urged everyone to ensure their respective communities assisted by taking a strong approach to personal security and appreciate that a house or car in Tweeddale was just as an inviting a target as one in Silverknowes or Dalkeith. Community Officers were available should residents or businesses wish any specific Crime Prevention Advice. Inspector Hodges welcomed members of Community Councils accompanying Community Officers on Hand Held Rader Speed Checks. Further, he urged Members to challenge and encourage their constituents to act in a grown up manner when it came to parking. Councillor Garvie expressed concern at this advice as it was neither legal nor within

Councillors' roles to police parking. expressed exception to this comment advising it was not within a Councillors' role to police parking. Community Councillor Lewin advised he had previously complained about the lack of Policy community liaison with Upper Tweed Community Council, he was pleased to advise that there had been much improved liaison in the last few months. Community Councillor Tulloch referred to the Nominated Neighbour Scheme and advised that he had problems downloading leaflets and cards from the website and Inspector Hodges undertook to investigate this. Following a comment from Community Councillor Parker, Inspector Hodges advised he would ascertain why Tweedsmuir Community Council had not been receiving Police Reports. Inspector Hodges concluded his update by thanking the Chairman for his excellent stewardship of the Forum and wished him all the best in his retirement.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

5. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Mr S. Mitchell, AIFireE – Station Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was welcomed to his first meeting of the Forum. Mr Mitchell presented information on the activities of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in the Tweeddale area since the last forum meeting on 23 November, 2016. The statistics included 4 house fires and 32 unwanted fire alarm signals. In relation to prevention and protection, some of the activities ongoing in the Tweeddale Area, were (a) provision of home safety visits; (b) pupils from Peebles High School undertaking a development programme focused on Leadership and Wellbeing - the outcome of the programme would be the delivery of a Resilience Day, planned and delivered by S3 pupils, which would involve multiagency participation; (c) all stations would be involved in exercising operational preparedness at specific risks within the area; (d) all stations were participating in the British Heart Foundation initiative – Call Push Rescue; and (e) all Stations would soon be involved in the SFRS Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest project. It was noted that a national recruitment campaign was on-going for Retained Duty System firefighters and West Linton had three candidates within the recruitment process.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

6. SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

- 6.1 The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr Charles Johnston, Principal Officer Plans and Research, to give a presentation on the Supplementary Guidance on Renewable Energy. Mr Johnston gave the background to the preparation of the Supplementary Guidance. One of the recommendations of the Local Development Plan, adopted on 12 May 2016, was to prepare, within one year, a Supplementary Guidance on Renewable Energy. Mr Johnston confirmed that a draft had been approved by Scottish Borders Council on 22 December 2016 and that there followed a 12 week public consultation period which would end on 17 April 2017. He explained how responses to the Supplementary Guidance could be made. In line with national support for the promotion of sustainable development and renewable energy the Council would continue to be supportive of renewable energy within appropriate locations. Shown within the presentation were maps of the Scottish Borders indicating all wind development applications of over 5 MW and under 5 MW colour coded to show the status of each and the height to blade tip. Looking at the policy context of the guidance, Scottish Planning Policy reaffirmed support for renewable energy and the need to attain national energy targets. This was to achieve 100% of electricity from renewable energy by 2020. However a balance must be sought; emphasising the right development in the right place and not to allow development at any cost. The planning system should facilitate positive change while maintaining and enhancing distinctive

landscape character. There was general support of renewable energy within the Local Development Plan. However if there were judged to be unacceptable significant adverse impacts, or effects which could not be satisfactorily mitigated, consent would only be granted if it was considered that the wider economic, environmental and other benefits outweighed any potential damage. The Guidance confirmed that the Council was positive in its support of other renewable energy types; those referenced included micro renewables, field scale solar photovoltaics, biomass, energy from waste, anaerobic digestion, hydropower and ground source heat pumps.

- 6.2 Mr Johnston referred to the Wind Energy Spatial Framework within the draft Guidance and maps of the Scottish Borders were shown indicating: national scenic areas where wind farms would not be acceptable; areas of significant protection where wind farms may be appropriate in some circumstances; and areas with potential for wind farm development. Scottish Planning Policy also made reference to the need to consider Landscape Capacity and Cumulative Impact studies. As a strategic study and starting point, an updated Landscape Capacity and Cumulative Impact Study had been produced by consultants. Extracts from the study were shown in the presentation, including maps showing landscape capacity in areas of the Borders for turbines of different height ranges. A summary map of opportunities and constraints was also shown. Mr Johnston concluded the presentation by listing the development management considerations within the Supplementary Guidance, including those not previously mentioned such as impacts on communities, built heritage and archaeology, tourism and recreation, natural heritage, opportunities for energy storage and contribution towards renewable energy targets. He advised that, following the consultation period an update of findings and conclusions would be referred back to elected Members in summer 2017. The Supplementary Guidance would ultimately be referred to Scottish Ministers to become part of the Development Plan.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

7. PREPARATION OF NEW LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Mr Johnston's second presentation related to the preparation of a new Local Development Plan (LDP). He confirmed that, as part of a 5 year cycle, work on a new Plan was just commencing. He summarised the timeline for the production of the Plan and highlighted that the first stage, the Main Issues Report (MIR), would be prepared by December 2017. The MIR was a front runner to the LDP which in essence sought to identify a range of issues which the LDP should address. The MIR, which would be sent out for public consultation, identified preferred sites for houses as well as alternatives. It also proposed where planning policies could be updated, removed or merged. The MIR sought public opinion on a range of matters such as the main aims of the LDP, proposals for allocation of employment sites, housing policy, retail policy, regeneration issues, green space protection and climate change issues. Community engagement would be carried out through a series of exhibitions and workshops with community groups throughout the summer of 2017. Mr Johnston was thanked for his attendance.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

8. OPEN QUESTIONS

Ms H Anderson, Lamancha referred to recent publicity relating to additional funding being made available to the Area Forums. Powers were to be given to Area Forums to decide how the money would be allocated and any decisions would not be subject to ratification by the Council. This would meet with the objectives of the Community

Empowerment (Scotland) Act to promote and facilitate the participation of members of the public in the decisions and activities of the Council. It was anticipated that the sum available to the Tweeddale Area Forum would be approximately £70,000.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

9. **COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT**

No issues were raised.

VALEDICTORY REMARKS

10. Councillor Bell, on behalf of the local Members and Community Council Officers, thanked Councillor Archibald for his stewardship of the Tweeddale Area Forum. Captain Sir David Younger KCVO and Community Councillor Mollie McIntosh MBE also expressed their thanks to the six local Councillors for all they had done for Tweeddale East and Tweeddale West.

The meeting concluded at 8.10 p.m.

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SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
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Tweeddale Area Forum 14th June 2017
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Report.

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to inform the Tweeddale Area Forum on Scottish Fire and Rescue Service activity since the last forum meeting on 1st March 2017.

Within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-2017 for the Scottish Borders five priorities are identified;

1. Reduction of Dwelling Fires
2. Reduction of Fire Casualties and Fatalities
3. Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting (Not including Dwellings)
4. Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals
5. Reduction in Road Traffic Collisions.

Response & Resilience activity in the Tweeddale Area

Incident type	Occurrences	Detail	Casualties
Fire- House	4	1x accidental dwelling 3x chimney	0
Fire- Other	15	2x car 13x woodland/refuse	0
Special Service	10	3 x medical responder 4x RTC 1x effect entry 2x hazmats	4 (RTC)
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	53	Various domestic & industrial	0

Partnership Working

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) community action team (CAT), within the Scottish Borders, core work centres on the on-going delivery of the SFRS Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) policy. The team continues to expand its partnership working with the key agencies including Police Scotland, Health, Social Care and Housing in order to focus on members of local communities at high risk from fire and achieve positive outcomes in helping to reduce overall numbers of accidental dwelling fires.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Prevention and Protection

Fire prevention and protection activity is key to reducing the number of fires, casualties and losses in Scotland thus minimising the economic and social impact of fire on communities. The seasonal community safety calendar provides the catalyst for a number of initiatives and schemes throughout the calendar year.

Activity that is ongoing now within the Tweeddale area;

- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service staff in all our local stations provide home fire safety visits (HFSV) all year round. SFRS is currently working with partners within Scottish Borders Council on a project to adapt the HFSV to incorporate unintentional harm in the home.
- Seven pupils from Peebles High School were identified and undertook a 6 days over 6 weeks development programme focused on Leadership and Wellbeing. This programme successfully concluded on the 14th of March at a demonstration and presentation day held at Galashiels Community Fire Station, attended by elected members, parents, friends, school and education dept. staff. An additional outcome of the programme was the delivery of a Resilience Day, planned and delivered by S3 pupils, which involved multiagency participation. It is hoped this will become part of the curriculum moving forward.
- All stations will be engaging communities with the Summer Thematic Action Plan. Targeting Road Safety, summer fire safety, deliberate fire setting, antisocial behaviour, water safety. They plan to facilitate this by open days, community safety talks / events, school engagement sessions etc.
- Pupils from Peebles High School recently attended a “Drivewise” road safety event at Charterhall airfield near Duns, sponsored by John Cleland and supported by SFRS, Police Scotland and IAM Roadsmart.
- All Tweeddale RDS Stations were involved in a successful multi pump exercise at a Chemical Production site in Walkerburn on the 25th March to test our operational preparedness.
- All stations are participating in the British Heart Foundation initiative- “Call Push Rescue”.

We have supported the recent “Save a Life Scotland” awareness and training day held at Priorsford Primary School. Stations are providing free CPR training to the public on a monthly basis to build resilience in the community and to drive down the numbers of people who die from cardiac arrest. The project is aimed at reducing the number of people who die from OHCA in Scotland by 1000 by 2020. The figure is currently at 3400 per year.

- Fire safety audits provide a targeted examination of a business premises and their relevant documents to ascertain how the premises are being managed regarding fire safety. The enforcement officer also engages with members of staff to confirm their level of fire safety awareness.
- Unwanted fire signals are being addressed by our phased intervention actions which identifies premises which are producing ‘false alarms’, provides guidance on how to reduce a reoccurrence, and can also evoke legislation if occurrences fail to reduce in number.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

- SFRS Safeguarding Policy and Procedure for Protection of Children and Adults at Risk of Harm was implemented to link into adult and child protection. The policy has created closer ties with Social Services within Scottish Borders and ensures those people and families that fire crews identify as at risk are brought to the attention of Social Services. This has resulted in crews within the Scottish Borders referring over 50 times in the last year, with the aim of to reduce risk to those occupiers.
- We are developing a strong partnership with the local Domestic Abuse Advocacy Service and involvement in Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). The Local Authority Liaison Officer (LALO) and Scottish Borders Station Manager for Prevention and Protection are fully involved in all local MARAC processes, attending the monthly conferences and all steering group meetings

As we move into the summer the seasonal community safety calendar and thematic action plan will focus our activities on the following areas;

- Deliberate fire setting / fire related antisocial behaviour
- Summer Safety
- Water Safety
- Wildfire & outdoor fire safety

We will work closely with our partners in the Scottish Borders Council Safer Communities Team as well as local partnerships to promote preventative work as well as inter agency solutions.

Retained Duty System (RDS)

A national recruitment campaign is on-going for RDS firefighters at identified stations within the Scottish Borders. West Linton and Galashiels stations are currently recruiting staff. West Linton currently have three candidates within the recruitment process

Local Fire and Rescue Plan

The Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Scottish Borders 2014- 2017 sets out the priorities for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

We have a statutory responsibility to publish a Local Fire and Rescue Plan. The plan aligns to the SFRS Strategic Plan and adds local context by reflecting priorities for the Scottish Borders. We are in the process of reviewing our 2014-17 Local Fire and Rescue Plan; this review (**addendum to this report**) will inform the planning process for the 2017-20 plan, produced late 2017.

We require your feedback on the plan as you reflect the needs of the community as well as highlighting priorities for the SFRS.

Station Manager Stephen Mitchell
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Galashiels Community Fire Station
Tel 01896 752251 / 07833436663
Email: Stephen.mitchell@firescotland.gov.uk

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED



**Scottish Borders
Local Fire and Rescue Plan
Review 2014 - 2017**



**SCOTTISH
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1. Introduction

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service 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 our inaugural year, our first Local Plans were published in April 2014.

These plans were developed to direct the Service through its initial transformation 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 Strategic Plan 2016-19 in October 2016 has instigated 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 diverse needs of our communities.

2. Performance Data – what the figures told us

Over the past five years within the Scottish Borders, the SFRS responded to 7538 incidents, which is an average of 1508 incidents each year. The indicators below relate to our reduction priorities within the 2014-17 Local Fire and Rescue Plan. They do not include certain data such as non-domestic, non-dwelling accidental fires and non-fire related Special Services, this data however does form part of the overall incident totals above.

Dwelling fires accounted for 7% of our operational activity over the five-year period and resulted in 96 fire casualties including five fatalities. Deliberate fires, other than dwellings, accounted for 6% of our operational activity over the five-year period. Special Service, Road Traffic Collision's (RTC's) also accounted for 6% of our operational activity for the same period.

Disappointingly, Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) accounted for 59% of our operational response activity.

Green figures indicate we have met our performance target, a red figures indicate we have failed to reach our performance target.

Key performance indicator	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Dwelling fires	108	110	84	109	89
All fire casualties and fatalities	18	28	15	18	17
All deliberate fires excl. dwellings	63	79	92	100	97
Special Service - RTCs	86	76	92	107	94
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	878	919	878	905	870

3. Scrutiny Arrangements

Scrutiny arrangements in the Scottish Borders require SFRS to report local performance on a quarterly basis to the Scottish Borders Police, Fire and Safer Communities Committee. Performance reports are presented to the Committee by the SFRS Local Senior Officer with the following Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) scrutinised.

1. Reduction of Dwelling Fires
2. Reduction of Fire Casualties and Fatalities
3. Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting (not including dwellings)
4. Reduction of Road Traffic Collisions
5. Reduction of All Special Service Casualties
6. Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

It should be noted that the term "Special Service" relates to a range of incident types including RTC's, rescues from height, water and confined space, medical emergencies and effecting entry. Whilst not captured as a priority in our 2014-17 Local Fire and Rescue Plan, our attendance at medical emergency related calls continues to increase and accounted for 8% of our operational activity over the last two years.

HM Fire Service Inspectorate (HMFSI) inspection 2016

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 builds 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 aligning to the collaborative partnership working requirements of Local Outcome Improvement Plan delivery.

4. Reduction of Dwelling Fires

We will contribute towards the Scottish target of a 10% reduction over a three-year rolling period

What the figures told us

Dwelling fires can have devastating effects on our communities. The reduction of dwelling fires, accidental or deliberate, continues to be a priority for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) in the Scottish Borders.

The incidence of Dwelling Fires in the Scottish Borders has seen minor increases and decreases over the last five years. Consistent with other areas of Scotland there is a higher incidence of Dwelling Fires in our larger populated towns for example Galashiels and Hawick.

Over 50% of these fires started in single occupancy dwellings involving persons 18-64 years old. Most fires occurred during the day between 1600-2100hrs with human behaviour rather than equipment faults being a common cause.

Not surprisingly, the kitchen and cooking continues to be the most common room of origin and cause for Dwelling Fires.

The Scottish Borders has generally charted just below the Scottish average over the last five years with 2.5 people in every 10,000 in the Scottish Borders requiring the attendance of the SFRS to a fire in their home.

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Scottish Borders	108	110	84	109	89
Tweeddale West	11	9	4	6	6
Tweeddale East	7	10	4	5	4
Galashiels and District	22	17	16	18	14
Selkirkshire	3	9	3	4	10
Leaderdale and Melrose	7	11	15	8	4
Mid Berwickshire	11	11	10	11	11
East Berwickshire	8	7	7	20	12
Kelso and District	3	14	5	10	7
Jedburgh and District	9	7	3	7	3
Hawick and Denholm	15	9	8	9	7
Hawick and Hermitage	12	6	9	11	11

What are we doing to help prevent Dwelling Fires?

Over the last three years, we have conducted over 5000 home safety visits and fitted just over 10000 smoke detectors in the Scottish Borders. We continue to work alongside our community partners to identify and engage with those most at risk from fire.

5. Reduction in Fire Casualties and Fatalities

We will contribute towards the Scottish target of a 5% reduction, over a three-year rolling period in relation to fire casualties and fatalities

What the figures told us

Fire casualty and fatality rates provide an indication of the amount of serious, life-threatening injuries that occur due to fire. This can indicate not only the success of SFRS in reducing the number of life risk fires through community fire safety and similar activities, but also their success in response activity in saving lives.

Figures relating to fire casualties have averaged 17 over the last five years with exception of 2013/14 when we experienced a sharp rise in casualties. There have been five fire fatalities for the same period, one each year. The wards of Lauderdale & Melrose, Mid Berwickshire, Hawick & Denholm and Hawick & Hermitage collectively accounted for 58% of all fire casualties in the Scottish Borders over the five-year period.

Casualty figures include those who have received a precautionary check-up and no further treatment. Many non-fatal casualties suffered minor injuries such as slight smoke inhalation, very few required hospitalisation.

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Scottish Borders	18	28	15	18	17
Tweeddale West	0	2	1	2	2
Tweeddale East	2	2	0	0	0
Galashiels and District	2	2	0	3	1
Selkirkshire	1	0	1	0	3
Leaderdale and Melrose	2	5	4	2	0
Mid Berwickshire	2	6	3	2	4
East Berwickshire	1	0	1	1	1
Kelso and District	0	2	0	1	1
Jedburgh and District	4	0	1	3	0
Hawick and Denholm	2	5	1	2	2
Hawick and Hermitage	2	4	3	2	3

What are we doing to reduce Fire Casualties and Fatalities?

During home safety visits, SFRS staff discuss fire safety measures with occupants and fit smoke detectors if required. Knowing what to do in the event of a fire is crucial to maintaining your safety and others within the home. Smoke detection gives early warning of fire and it is this warning that not only allows quicker intervention but also gives occupants the opportunity to leave the affected premises earlier thus reducing the chances of serious and life threatening injuries.

SFRS also work in partnership with other public services such as Police Scotland, Scottish Borders Council and Health and Social Care in order to identify, and reach, those most at risk from fire in our communities.

6. Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting (not including Dwellings)

Our target against the 3-year average is to continually reduce the number of deliberately set fires

What the figures told us

Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting continues to be a priority for the SFRS in the Scottish Borders. Deliberate fires of this nature typically involve grassland, refuse or derelict buildings. Evidence shows that there is often a close link between deliberate secondary fires and anti-social behaviour.

Deliberate fires can often be of a sporadic nature although increases in operational response activity generally coincide with the spring and summer months.

There have been 431 deliberate fires in the Scottish Borders over the last five years. Galashiels and District has consistently seen the greatest incidence of deliberate fires accounting for 19% of the five-year Borders total. Hawick & Denholm and Jedburgh & District are next highest accounting for 12% and 10% of the Borders total respectively.

East Berwickshire, with 4%, has seen the least amount of deliberately started fires.

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Scottish Borders	63	79	92	100	97
Tweeddale West	10	3	8	14	5
Tweeddale East	5	4	9	16	9
Galashiels and District	8	11	18	23	23
Selkirkshire	6	5	9	5	7
Leaderdale and Melrose	2	9	6	6	7
Mid Berwickshire	7	6	8	4	8
East Berwickshire	3	4	4	2	4
Kelso and District	3	14	4	6	6
Jedburgh and District	6	8	6	11	12
Hawick and Denholm	8	7	14	11	11
Hawick and Hermitage	5	8	6	2	5

What are we doing to reduce Deliberate Fire Setting?

Due to the sporadic and random nature of many deliberately started fires, prevention activities are often reactive. The Church Square area of Galashiels and District is a good example of this and has seen a number of partnership approaches to reduce deliberate fire setting whilst attempting to detect and apprehend the individuals responsible.

The SFRS also offer a range of diversionary and educational programmes for younger people such as Cooldown Crew and Crucial Crew that highlight the consequences of starting fires deliberately. The recent SFRS led TD1 initiative was not only innovative but popular and this format, where younger people's personal and team skills are developed to boost employment chances and encourage good citizenship, will be developed for potential use across the Scottish Borders.

7. Reduction of Road Traffic Collisions

Our target against the three-year average is to continually reduce the number of Road Traffic Collisions on the roads in the Scottish Borders

What the figures told us

Responding to Road Traffic Collisions is a key part of our intervention activities within the Scottish Borders. The SFRS is committed to working with partners and other stakeholders in order to reduce the amount of RTC's that occur in the Scottish Borders. It is worth highlighting that Police Scotland is responsible for investigating the cause of RTC, because of this the SFRS retain only general information relating to the figures below.

SFRS intervention at RTC's can include extricating persons using Hydraulic Rescue Equipment (HRE), rendering medical assistance, or making the vehicle or scene safe. In total, we attended 455 RTC's within the five-year period, on 125 occasions we utilised HRE to remove trapped occupants from vehicles.

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Scottish Borders	86	76	92	107	94
Tweeddale West	12	8	18	11	8
Tweeddale East	5	12	13	13	8
Galashiels and District	10	10	13	14	12
Selkirkshire	7	5	6	7	6
Leaderdale and Melrose	13	8	8	16	11
Mid Berwickshire	4	9	8	5	10
East Berwickshire	8	3	8	12	6
Kelso and District	9	3	5	8	8
Jedburgh and District	13	13	8	13	15
Hawick and Denholm	4	3	2	6	5
Hawick and Hermitage	1	2	3	2	5

What are we doing to reduce Road Traffic Collisions?

The SFRS are part of the Scottish Borders Safer Communities unit and a member of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Road Safety Working Group. Community Action Teams (CAT) and operational staff attend educational establishments such as schools and the Borders College to deliver inputs to young drivers regarding the consequences of RTC's. We also participate in partnership initiatives such as the Scottish Borders Young Drivers Event and more recently, the Police Scotland led initiative "Drivewise". Reduction of RTC's also forms part of the SFRS action plan regarding the Reducing Inequalities Group within the CPP.

8. Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Our target against the three-year average is to contribute towards a continued reduction in UFAS within the Scottish Borders

What the figures told us

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) are defined as incidents where an automated fire alarm system activates and results in the mobilisation of SFRS resources, when the reason for that alarm turns out to be something other than a fire emergency.

UFAS is categorised into Equipment Failure, Good Intent and Malicious Intent. The figure below relates to all three categories however, our quarterly performance report presented to the Police, Fire and Safer Communities Committee focuses on Equipment Failure. Equipment Failure accounted for around 70% of all UFAS calls and just over 50% of our total operational response activity.

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Scottish Borders	878	919	878	905	870
Tweeddale West	123	130	93	84	111
Tweeddale East	40	41	28	30	54
Galashiels and District	92	103	92	104	116
Selkirkshire	85	60	81	59	89
Leaderdale and Melrose	73	79	92	78	81
Mid Berwickshire	29	25	52	33	63
East Berwickshire	44	33	41	34	54
Kelso and District	25	29	36	25	76
Jedburgh and District	24	29	33	28	62
Hawick and Denholm	37	41	30	31	68
Hawick and Hermitage	65	60	67	60	96

What are we doing to reduce Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals?

We continue to proactively monitor UFAS calls and our Fire Safety Enforcement Officers work closely with premises to reduce further UFAS incidents. This includes discussing technological, procedural and management solutions in order to prevent future UFAS incidents. This forms part of planned approach with the aim of educating duty holders whilst reducing UFAS calls and ensuring they meet their legislative requirements.

The SFRS has a Policy for dealing with UFAS calls which has been implemented in the Scottish Borders to ensure this is managed appropriately and consistently.

9. Emerging Priorities

Last year the SFRS published its 2016-2019 Strategic Plan. Six Strategic Priorities were identified including “Improving Local Outcomes” and “Modernising our Response”, the plan can be accessed here,

http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/media/1005163/scottish_fire_and_rescue_service_strategic_plan_2016_19.pdf

Both of the aforementioned priorities will form key parts of our 2017-20 Local Fire and Rescue Plan for the Scottish Borders. Indeed, whilst not included in our 2014-17 Local Plan, over the last 18 months we have contributed to both priorities through pilot projects in the Scottish Borders.

In terms of “Improving Local Outcomes”, the SFRS lead a multi-agency initiative that targets those most at risk from Unintentional Harm and Injury in the home. The project has seen the role of a local Firefighter expand beyond traditional activities and include holistic home safety such as assessing risk from slips, trips and falls in the home and referring to partner agencies when cases of fuel poverty are identified. The pilot, in the Cheviot locality, is currently being evaluated with expansion to another area of the Borders anticipated in the summer 2017.

With regard to “Modernising our Response”, the Scottish Borders also feature heavily in a national project with the aim of increasing survival rates when an individual suffers an “Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest” (OHCA). Initially seven Community Fire Stations were chosen across Scotland to take part in the pilot, this included Coldstream, Hawick and Lauder. The pilot, which has been running for 18 months, has expanded and now involves 16 stations across Scotland providing a medical response to OHCA in conjunction with Scottish Ambulance colleagues when requested.

The SFRS has taken a lead role in the Scottish Government “Unintentional harm” work stream of the Building Safer Communities Programme. The Scottish wide Strategic Assessment has now been published and will be considered as part of the next Local Fire Plan. (<http://www.bsc.scot/publications.html>)

The SFRS will continually aim to develop, evolve and improve as we look to provide a service that is fit for purpose, effective, efficient and takes cognisance of changing risk profiles and associated community needs.

10. Engagement – what our stakeholders told us

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

Feedback identified that in terms of local communities, the majority of people residing within the Scottish Borders are “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the service and information provided by the local Fire and Rescue Service. Community partners have acknowledged the importance of maintaining our “core business” however also recognise our contributions to wider Community Planning Partnership (CPP) themes such as Reducing Inequalities. Comments suggest that our CPP partners view the SFRS as a committed member in terms of resource and prevention and they are keen to see us develop some of our innovative projects in relation to Community Justice, youth engagement and holistic community safety.

Opportunities have also been highlighted where we can improve our community engagement whilst making our community fire stations more accessible for the general public and community partners. These opportunities also include wider information sharing regarding persons at risk and strengthening ties with Third and voluntary sector organisations.

11. Conclusions

In reviewing the progress against the priorities within the Scottish Borders Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014 – 2017, it is pleasing to note the decrease in dwelling fires and associated casualties. We will continue to prioritise this type of incident whilst strengthening our links with community partners and the public to allow us to reach those most at risk from fire in our communities.

On a less positive note, Road Traffic Collisions and other Special Service incidents continue to rise. Improvements in this area will only be achieved by innovative and concentrated collaborative working with key stakeholders. As a statutory partner within the CPP but also as an emergency response service to RTC's, the SFRS will continue to prioritise the reduction of this type of incident and associated casualties.

It is clear that opportunities exist to improve our engagement with the communities we serve. Only by listening to our communities will we accurately identify their needs, which in turn will direct our prevention activities to the people and places that need them most. We will not do this in isolation and we will look to strengthen and improve our excellent relationships with Community Partners such as Police Scotland and the Local Authority whilst establishing links with other partners from the private and third sectors.

The SFRS has undergone significant change since its inception in 2013. Examples of this have been the expansion of the role of a Firefighter into holistic community safety whilst shaping a Fire and Rescue Service that meets the needs of modern day society and its associated risks. We are keen to ensure that the Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2017-20 recognises and reflects some of the key transformational changes which we have implemented and continue to develop in the Scottish Borders.

The review of the Scottish Borders Local Fire and Rescue Plan for 2014 – 2017 has considered the progress that has been made to date and supported the development of key priorities for the next plan. As mentioned previously, 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 the Scottish Borders.

12. Recommendations

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

Priority 1: Reduction of Dwelling Fires

Priority 2: Reduction of Fire Casualties and Fatalities

Priority 3: As part of a Community Partnership approach, contribute to the reduction of Unintentional Harm and Injury in the Home for those groups most at risk.

Priority 4: Reduction of Road Traffic Collisions

Priority 5: As part of a Community Partnership approach, contribute to the reduction of all Special Service Casualties

Priority 6: Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals