
REPORT ON THE RESPONSE TO FIRE AND RESCUE FRAMEWORK FOR SCOTLAND 2016 CONSULTATION

Report by Chief Executive

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

29 June 2016

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to agree the response to the Scottish Government's Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2016 Consultation.**
- 1.2 The Scottish Fire and Rescue Framework 2016 (see Appendix 1) which is the subject of this consultation aims to set out the priorities, objectives and overall performance targets that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) must meet to carry out its functions. These relate to public safety, efficiency and effectiveness of the service. The deadline for responses was the 15 June 2016 but this has been extended to enable the Council's response to be approved and submitted.
- 1.3 The proposed response from the Council is set out in Appendix 2. This response has been circulated to members of the Scottish Borders Police, Fire and Rescue and Safer Communities Board for their comments. The main aspect of the draft response is that supporting local accountability and flexibility should be brought out as a strategic priority within the Framework. In addition it is important that the needs of rural regions such as the Scottish Borders are fully taken account of in the assessment of national and local risks and that this is fully recognised in the allocation of operational and specialist resources.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council agree the response to the Scottish Government's Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2016 Consultation as set out in Appendix 2.**

3 SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE FRAMEWORK AND DRAFT RESPONSE

- 3.1 The intention of the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2016(see Appendix 1) is to set out Scottish Ministers' expectations of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. The Framework provides the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services with strategic priorities and objectives, together with guidance on how the delivery of its functions should contribute to the Scottish Government's purpose for the service.
- 3.2 The context for the development of the Framework aligns with matters that are important to the Scottish Borders. These include: public service reform; realising efficiencies and improving productivity; the service's contribution to tackling social and economic inequalities; the changing population with the increasing numbers of people over 65; and building community resilience. The Framework emphasises the importance of prevention, protection, managing risk, partnership, responsiveness and performance. These aspects form the basis of the ten strategic objectives set out in the draft Framework and a context for performance targets.
- 3.3 The proposed response is set out in Appendix 2. On the whole the Framework is robust but it is considered that there needs to be more emphasis on the relationship between the national and local levels. For this reason the draft response indicates that supporting local accountability and flexibility should be brought out as a strategic priority within the Framework. Also in delivering fire and rescue services there can be a focus on the larger populated areas. The draft response points out that the needs of rural regions, such as the Scottish Borders, should be fully taken into account when assessing national and local risks and that this is fully recognised in the allocation of operational and specialist resources. It also recognised that the Fire and Rescue Service has a major contribution to partnership working and this is shown by its developing work in responding to cardiac arrests, community resilience and in supporting employability amongst young people. Finally reducing unwanted fire signals needs to be brought out as a performance indicator and added to those indicators used in the previous Framework.

4 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

4.2 Risk and Mitigations

Fire and rescue services are a key emergency service in the Scottish Borders and it is important that the service's objectives and priorities align with the needs of the Scottish Borders.

4.3 Equalities

As this report is response to a consultation document there is no need for an equality impact assessment.

4.4 Acting Sustainably

There are no direct effects on sustainability arising from the contents of this report.

4.5 **Carbon Management**

There are no effects on carbon emissions.

4.6 **Rural Proofing**

The needs of rural areas have been considered in responding to the consultation paper

4.7 **Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**

There are no changes to be made.

5 CONSULTATION

5.1 Members of the Scottish Borders Police, Fire and Rescue and Safer Communities Board have been consulted on the response. The Council’s Management Team, Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR and the Clerk to the Council have been be consulted on this report and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

**Tracey Logan
Chief Executive**

Signature

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Douglas Scott	Senior Policy Adviser 01835 825155

Background Papers: None

Previous Minute Reference: None

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Douglas Scott can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact us at: Douglas Scott dscott@scotborders.gov.uk tel: 01835 825155