

**DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2014**

**Report by Area Manager David Stapley, Local Senior Officer,  
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**REPORT NUMBER – 22-2014**

**CONSULTATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN 2014-17**

**Abstract**

The Report contains information on the development of priorities and objectives for inclusion within the Dundee City Local Fire and Rescue plan for the period 2014-17 including details of the proposed consultation and engagement process.

**1 RECOMMENDATION**

1.1 It is recommended that Members:

- a) Note the content of this report and provide feedback as necessary on the local consultation strategy.
- b) Participate in the consultation process to develop the local fire and rescue plan to meet the needs of the communities of Dundee.

**2 BACKGROUND**

2.1 The Police and Fire Reform Act (Scotland) 2012 provides the legislative framework that will support the work of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), including local scrutiny and engagement for the delivery of local fire and rescue services to protect and improve local services and strengthen the connection between services and communities.

2.2 The Act establishes the requirement for the Local Senior Officer, in consultation with the Local Authority, to develop a Local Fire and Rescue Plan. The purpose of the Plan is to meet the requirements of the Act by reflecting local priorities and objectives that contribute to the delivery of successful outcomes, which have been identified through local community planning. The Local Fire and Rescue Plan must:

- Set out the main priorities and objectives for fire and rescue in the local area
- Explain the reasons for selecting those priorities and objectives
- Set out proposed delivery arrangements and how they will achieve the priorities and objectives
- Identify outcomes against which the achievement of those priorities and objectives may be measured

- Detail how the priorities, objectives and arrangements will contribute to the delivery of relevant local outcomes.

### **3 NATIONAL CONTEXT**

3.1 The Scottish National Performance Framework underpins the delivery of the Scottish Government's agenda, supports the outcomes-based approach to performance and establishes the Scottish Government's Purpose. The purpose is underpinned by five strategic objectives to make Scotland: ***Wealthier and Fairer, Smarter, Healthier, Safer and Stronger, and Greener.***

3.2 The shared Statement of Ambition makes clear the commitment of the Scottish Government, COSLA and representatives of Community Planning Partnerships to retain and develop Community Planning and SOAs as the basis of an outcomes-based approach to public services in Scotland.

3.3 Single Outcome Agreements were established following the Concordat which was established between COSLA and the Scottish Government in 2007. In support of this agreement Dundee City Council have produced a Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2017 which sets out how the council and its partners will work towards improving national outcomes for the public in a way that reflects local circumstances and priorities.

3.4 The Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003 places a statutory duty on local authorities, police and fire authorities to work in partnership with other public services and voluntary organisations to improve the delivery of services to communities using customer focussed outcomes.

3.5 The Fire Scotland Act 2005 is the principle legislation which details the duties of the fire and rescue service including home fire safety, fire safety in business premises and emergency response.

3.6 The Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013 sets out the Scottish Governments expectations, strategic priorities and objectives and provides guidance and support for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in the carrying out its functions.

3.7 Section 41A of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 requires the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to prepare a strategic plan setting out how it will deliver against the Fire and Rescue Framework and the outcomes against which delivery will be measured. The plan will cover a three year period and was published in October 2013.

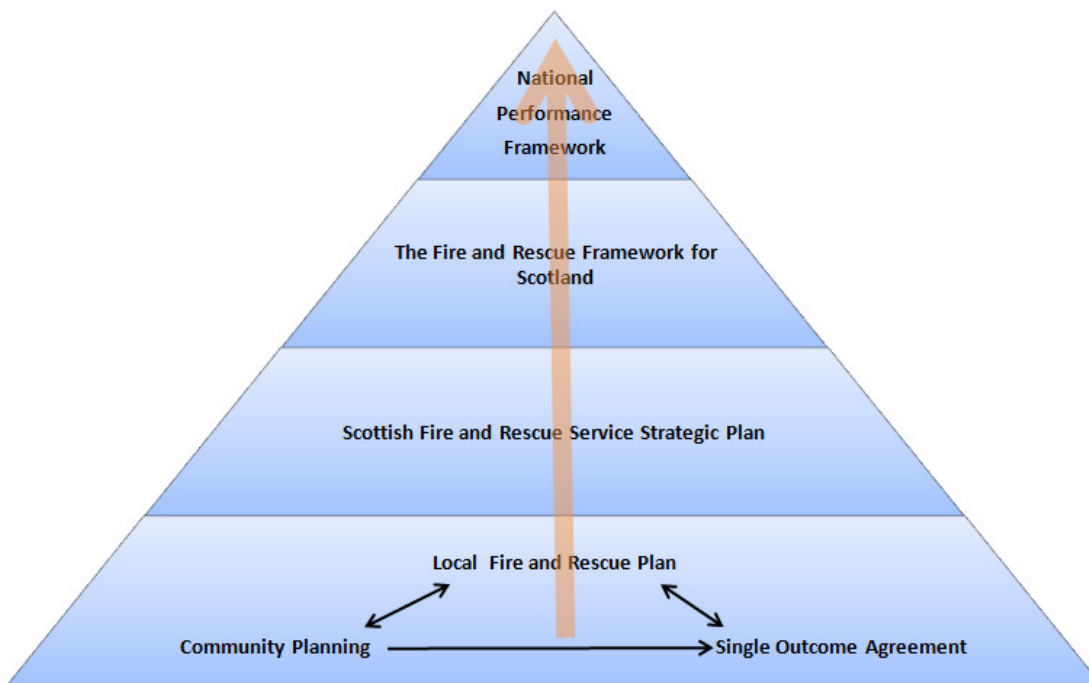
### **4 DEVELOPING THE FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN**

4.1 Following an extensive consultation process conducted between December 2012 and March 2013 an interim Dundee City Fire and Rescue Plan was agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2013. Subsequently a performance management framework has been implemented during which quarterly reports have been presented to elected members. As the SFRS has now published a Strategic Plan, as required under section 41G of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 interim plans must be reviewed to ensure consistency and alignment

with the SFRS strategic planning cycle. The review will also contribute to the development of a Local Fire and Rescue Plan to meet the needs of the communities of Dundee for the period 2014-17. Further consultation on the new plan will take place to ensure that the necessary approval is gained prior to implementation on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.

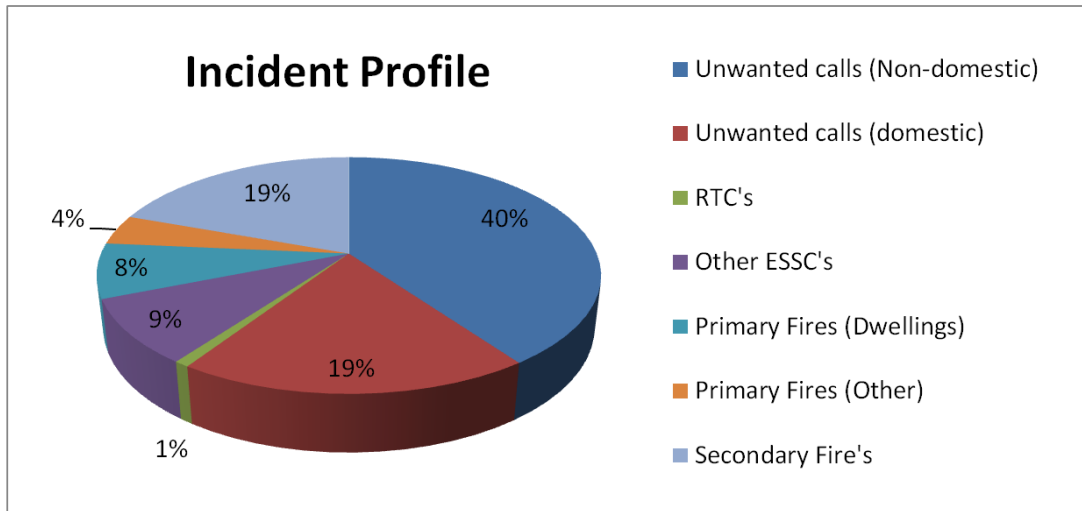
4.2 The National Context detailed in the previous paragraphs (3.1-3.7) provides the strategic direction for developing the Local Fire and Rescue Plan. Additionally the Single Outcome Agreement (2013-17) developed by the Council articulates the priorities and 10 outcome statements relevant to Dundee, which will be delivered through the Dundee Partnership. As a statutory partner it is important that the Local Fire and Rescue Plan supports both the delivery of local outcomes and the strategic direction provided by the Scottish Government and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

4.3 The following diagram summarises and illustrates the relationship between the key components within the planning framework.



4.4 The Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment and the Fire and Rescue Strategic Assessment are key tools for identifying fire and rescue priorities within Dundee. These assessments bring together a range of information, including fire and rescue incident data, intelligence from the local police, NHS Tayside and Dundee City Council to identify local issues. This included data relating to population composition, housing, health and areas of deprivation (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2012).

Figure1: Dundee Incident Profile 2009-13



4.5 Understanding local conditions and reflecting the community voice is one of the key principles for good scrutiny and engagement. A range of engagement events will be facilitated between December 2013 and February 2014 to provide an opportunity for key stakeholders to shape and influence the priorities and outcomes contained within the plan. Key stakeholder groups to be involved in this consultation include:

- Elected Members
- Community Planning Partners
- Community Groups
- Business Community
- Staff

4.6 Taking cognisance of the strategic context and a review of the evidence provided by stakeholders during the preparation of the interim plan for 2013/14 the following priorities were identified:

1. Reduce Casualties
2. Reduce Primary Fires
3. Maintain Firefighter Safety and Operational Preparedness
4. Reduce Deliberate Fires
5. Reduce Emergency Special service Calls
6. Reduce Unwanted Calls
7. Increase Working Smoke Alarm Ownership

4.7 Following a review of the SFRS Strategic Plan and its four aims, the progress with the development of the SOA, as well as taking cognisance of 4.8 above, a suite of proposed

priorities have been identified for the local area which are detailed within the attached draft Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Dundee 2014-17 (Appendix 1). These priorities are:

1. Local Risk Management and Preparedness
2. Reduction of Dwelling Fires
3. Reduction in Fire Fatalities and Casualties
4. Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting
5. Reduction of Fires in Non Domestic Property
6. Reduction in Casualties from Non Fire Emergencies
7. Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

4.8 The proposed Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Dundee 2014-17 has been developed to meet the priorities of the SFRS without losing focus upon the outcomes that were agreed in the interim 2013/14 plan. This ensures that the Local Senior Officer continues to contribute to Dundee's Single Outcome Agreement whilst effective and sustainable relationships with our partners are maintained and enhanced.

## **5 CONSULTATION**

5.1 The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 sets out local scrutiny and engagement arrangements for the delivery of local fire and rescue services that will protect and improve local services whilst strengthening the connection between the Service and the local community. This places a requirement on the Local Senior Officer to involve the local authority and consult appropriately with respect to setting the priorities and objectives for local fire and rescue delivery within the plan.

5.2 It is anticipated that a revised Dundee City Fire and Rescue Plan will be implemented on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014. In preparation for this change it is important that the Local Senior Officer initiates a programme of community engagement and consultation to give the people of Dundee an opportunity to shape and influence the priorities and objectives for their local fire and rescue service.

5.3 A community engagement and consultation strategy has been developed to provide clear direction on how to effectively engage with and consult our stakeholders, partners and staff. A local plan public consultation survey (Appendix 2) will be utilised to capture feedback from key stakeholders on our proposed plan. This survey can be completed online by visiting: <http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/about-us/local-plans/local-plans-public-consultation.aspx> and selecting the Local Authority area.

5.4 Before implementation of the consultation strategy, advice has been sought from council officials to confirm the suitability of the approach, to ensure it meets the outcomes of openness and transparency, local engagement and equality and diversity. The following elements are integral to the strategy.

- Engagement with elected members and community planning partners
- Engagement with local community and focus groups
- Engagement with staff representative bodies

- Engagement with the business community including Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Small Business, the councils Economic Development department etc.
- Use of online surveys and social media
- Publishing consultation to WWW and internal intranet sites
- Consultation with a range of stakeholders on the draft priorities and objectives, including locally elected members, council officials, local communities via our attendance at the local community planning partnerships being held during February 2014.

5.5 The consultation phase commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013 and will end on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014. The methodology will include online surveys, use of social media, Websites, circulation of drafts to stakeholders and face to face meetings with elected members and council officers.

5.6 At the close of the consultation period feedback will be reviewed to ensure that it is reflected in the final version of the draft Dundee Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17. This will be circulated for comment and a copy of the draft plan will be presented at the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 17 March 2014.

## **6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no financial implications as a consequence of this report.

## **7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 Equality groups will be included in the consultation process with all feedback received being considered for inclusion in the final draft plan.

7.2 An equality impact assessment of the final draft plan will be carried out to ensure compliance with the SFRS equality policy. The outcomes of this assessment will be reviewed by the relevant department of DCC for compliance with their process.

## **8 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS**

8.1 This report will have no direct impact on the environment. Environmental policies are in place to ensure corporate social responsibility including the reduction of waste and carbon emissions to ensure compliance with the Climate Change Act 2009 and the Scottish Governments emissions targets.

## **9 SUMMARY**

9.1 As a consequence of Police and Fire Reform the new Scottish Fire and Rescue Service came into being on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013.

9.2 The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 makes provision for the appointment of a Local Senior Officer who will have responsibility to oversee the provision of local service delivery on behalf of the Chief Officer of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

9.3 To ensure effective local scrutiny and engagement responsibilities the Local Senior Officer has a responsibility to develop a Local Fire and Rescue plan in partnership through engagement with Dundee City Council.

9.4 The Local Fire and Rescue Plan is one element of a wider national framework, which underpins the Scottish Governments purpose of creating a more successful country incorporating Scotland Performs, the Dundee Single Outcome Agreement 2013/17 and the outcomes of the review into Community Planning.

9.5 The proposed Local Fire and Rescue Plan for 2014-17 will be developed into a final draft following a process of strategic assessment supported by a local engagement and consultation to determine local outcomes and priorities. The plan will ensure that the fire and rescue service makes a positive contribution to the delivery of integrated services that are more cost effective whilst securing positive community outcomes and risk reduction.

## **10 Background Papers**

10.1 No background papers, as defined in Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

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