

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE (POLICE, FIRE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY) – 12 AUGUST 2013

REPORT ON: RESPONSE TO THE SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE'S THREE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT NO: 336-2013

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To propose a response to the Strategic Plan 2013-2016 produced by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee consider the draft response set out in paragraph 4.2 below.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 Report No 320-2013 to this Committee provides information on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Plan. This report provides a draft response for consideration by members.

4.2 Subject to any additional comments from members having heard from the Local Senior Officer of the service, it is recommended that the following response be sent:

“The Council is very supportive of the vision, values and aims set out in the Plan. In particular, the Council welcomes the emphasis on prevention and on identifying people at particular risk of fire and targeting activities to tackle that risk. We note that the Plan says there is a need to further analyse the risk and incident profile to help understand the causes of fire casualties and inform where efforts should be focused, but the Plan acknowledges factors such as a high percentage of flatted dwellings and single occupancy households, high levels of deprivation and issues such as age, disability, mental health and alcohol/drug use. Dundee City Council looks forward to sharing information and working closely with the Fire and Rescue Service to target those at risk in our communities.

The Strategic Plan says that the Fire and Rescue Service will set ambitious targets for home fire safety visits and further develop education activity in communities. The last best value audit on Tayside Fire and Rescue Service highlighted the service's extremely strong emphasis on fire prevention, reflected in the most intensive programme of home safety visits and fire audits of any Scottish service, along with a range of other community safety education projects such as school visits, public events and diversionary programmes. The report noted that casualty rates in Tayside had fallen by almost two thirds in the past decade, around double the rate of decline across Scotland, and said there appeared to be a correlation between the drop in casualties and the significant increase in home safety visits. The service was also praised for targeting home visits at high risk, vulnerable people (and aiming to strengthen this approach through effective information sharing with

local authorities and other agencies) and for targeting fire audits at higher risk properties such as care homes, hotels and houses in multiple occupation.

The Council's main concern at establishment of a Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was to ensure that there would be no diminution of this crucial preventative work and that the strengths of Tayside's approach would be retained in the new service. The Council therefore welcomes the commitment to an ambitious programme of home visits and further community activity, and will be keen to see and comment on the specific targets for these, which we assume will be set out in the Local Plan or Prevention and Protection Strategy".

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality and Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no issues in this regard to report on.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and will be made available on the Council website <http://www.dundee.gov.uk/equanddiv/equimpact/>.

6. CONSULTATIONS

The Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report No 320-2013 to this Committee by the Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

David K Dorward
Chief Executive

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12/08/2013