

AGENDA ITEM NO: 2

Report To:

Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Sub- Date:

12 April 2018

Committee

Report By:

Education, Corporate Director

Communities & Organisational

Development

Contact Officer: Martin McNab Contact

Report No:

01475 714246

LPFS/03/18/MM

No:

Subject:

Your Service....Your Voice - A Consultation on the Safe and Planned

Future of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of the report is to seek approval of the response to the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service 'Your Service...Your Voice' consultation.

2.0 SUMMARY

- The Council has been invited by the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service to respond to the national 2.1 consultation on the safe and planned future of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (Appendix 1).
- 2.2 At the Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting of Thursday 22nd February in respect of agenda item 3 regarding the Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2017-2020, it was decided that a response be made to the Fire and Rescue Service consultation on the basis that no change be made to the existing community fire station provision in Inverclyde.
- 2.3 A completed copy of the proposed response is in Appendix 2.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Sub-Committee approves the response to the consultation.

Martin McNab **Acting Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities**

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Scottish Fire & Rescue Service launched a public consultation on the 'safe and planned future of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service' on 13 February 2018.
- 4.2 The Council has been invited by the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service to respond to the consultation.

5.0 THE CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The consultation has been developed to set out the vision of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, why the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service needs to transform and demonstrates how that transformation can be achieved.
- 5.2 The consultation is set across several sections. These include:-
 - What safe and planned transformation can deliver for Scotland
 - The SFRS today
 - The need to transform
 - We can reduce demand across public services
 - We can operate more efficiently
 - The need to adopt the latest technology.
- 5.3 The response to the consultation is attached as Appendix 2

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

Strategic

6.1 The Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Inverclyde 2017 – 2020 had previously been endorsed by the Education & Communities Committee on 31 October 2017.

Finance

6.2 There are no financial implications.

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Legal

6.3 None

Human Resources

6.4 None

Equalities

Assessment been carried out?

YES (see attached appendix)

NO - This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Repopulation

6.6 None

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.







The creation of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) in 2013 has been good for Scotland.

The Service has continued to improve the safety and wellbeing of communities while benefiting from the operational and financial efficiencies of bringing eight brigades together as one.

SFRS has proven that it is capable of delivering major reform. It has laid the foundations for future transformation, and it has continued to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the communities it serves.

But, SFRS needs to continue to transform.

It is important for Scotland - view our video to find out why.



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Your service.... Your voice

Your voice - why are we consulting?

We want you to be part of our decision-making process by giving you the opportunity to tell us your views and ideas on the future of *your* Service. This consultation details issues and proposals under consideration and asks you questions about these and the resulting improvements in outcomes. After the consultation is closed we will publish responses where we have been given permission to do so. Consent to publish is assumed unless you have told us otherwise in your response.

Full details on how to respond are set out at the end. This consultation is now open and will close after a full 90 days on 14 May 2018.

We really do want to hear what you have to say, so please use this opportunity to engage with us and have your voice heard.

We have created a number of ways for you to engage in the consultation, so you can choose the option that best suits you.

How to engage



Complete the consultation online at www.firescotland.gov.uk/transformation/public-consultation



Print and post your response to:

Your Service Your voice Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Management Suite Headquarters Westburn Drive Cambuslang G72 7NA

If you have any issue accessing our consultation or printing the response form please email: YourServiceYourVoice@firescotland.gov.uk

You can save and return to your response at any time while the consultation is open. But please ensure that your response is submitted before the consultation closes on 14 May 2018.

You will automatically be emailed a copy of your response after you submit it. If you choose this method you will be directed to complete the Respondent Information Form.

The Respondent Information Form lets us know how you wish your response to be handled, and in particular whether you are happy for your response to be made public.

What safe and planned transformation can deliver for Scotland

Transformation will be comprehensively planned to ensure it is safe for firefighters and the people they serve.

By transforming, we will be able to give firefighters a wider emergency response role, supported by all necessary training and equipment, which will enable them to save more lives and prevent further harm in some of the most challenging circumstances. But, by far, the biggest impact we can have on safety and wellbeing is by preventing emergencies from occurring in the first place.

"The biggest impact we can have is by preventing emergencies from occurring in the first place."

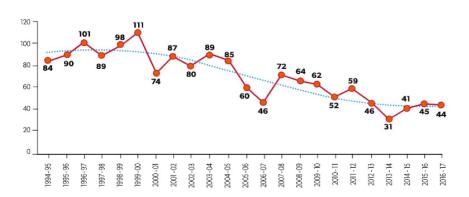
By extending a firefighter's prevention role, we can increase the impact of their work beyond our success in significantly reducing fires and fire deaths. This would not only improve community safety and wellbeing but would reduce the demand for - and therefore the cost of – other public services.

We want all communities in Scotland to benefit from the specialist firefighter skills and fire and rescue technology that a single national service can offer. As part of that we want to strengthen the service we provide in our rural communities by looking at more effective ways to balance our resources between urban and rural settings.

SFRS will never lose sight of its core emergency response role, but transformation will also allow us to introduce a more effective operating model, combined with latest technology to not only further enhance community and firefighter safety, but deliver a more efficient service for taxpayers.

We believe that a more efficient and effective operating model - one fit for the 21st Century - will allow us to improve both response times and the number of fire engines and firefighting equipment we can deploy to incidents.

Long-term trend of fire fatalities in Scotland, 1994/95 - 2016/17







The mandate to transform

The purpose of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was set out in the 2013 Framework.

The new Framework which came into effect from 1 September 2016 reiterated the purpose of the SFRS, and also the role the Service plays in the delivery of the National Outcomes. It also emphasised the on-going drive to reform public services, built on the four pillars of the Christie Commission and specified that transformation of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was to be one of ten Strategic Priorities set by Scottish Ministers.

"The main purpose of the Scottish
Fire and Rescue Service is to work in
partnership with communities and
with others in the public, private and
third sectors, on prevention, protection
and response, to improve the safety
and wellbeing of people throughout
Scotland."

"The SFRS should continue to ensure that the benefits of Fire Reform are fully realised, evidenced and tracked, and it should explore through Service redesign new and innovative ways in which it can improve the safety and well-being of communities throughout Scotland by building on the traditional roles carried out by the Service."

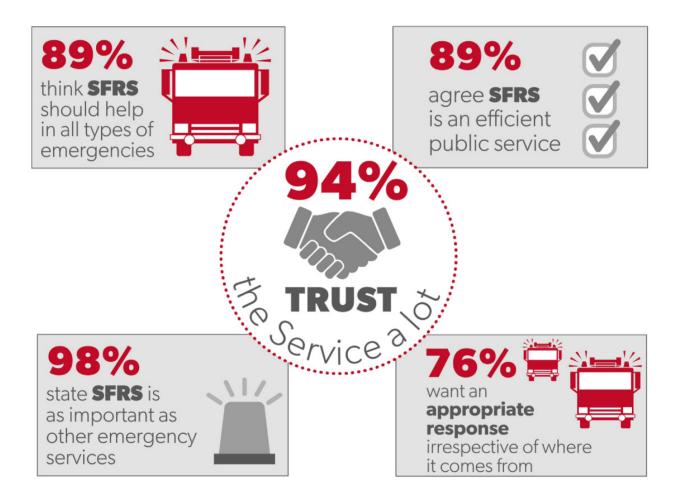
SFRS subsequently published its
Strategic Plan, which sets out how
the SFRS proposes to carry out its
functions over the period it covers,
and the outcomes against which
these may be measured.
The principles of the proposed
long-term Vision for the SFRS are,
therefore, entirely in line with the Fire
and Rescue Framework for Scotland
2016 and SFRS Strategic Plan 2016 2019, both of which have previously
been subject to public consultation.

Maintaining public confidence

We understand the public looks to us in their times of greatest need.

It is vital that the public has trust in our capabilities and that we will have the right resources in the right place at the right time and, that the advice we provide on prevention of harm is credible and makes a real difference.

We believe transformation will build even greater public confidence by doing even more to ensure their safety and wellbeing.



MORI Survey of 1,000 adults in Scotland conducted in May 2017





We can reduce demand across public services

Our preventative work has already contributed to a significant reduction in fires and fire deaths. By extending our expertise in prevention, we can make a direct and meaningful contribution to reducing demand across the public sector.

With access to around 72,000 households a year, the SFRS is in a unique position to contribute to improving wellbeing as well as reducing social and economic inequalities.

We would look to formalise our role in tackling antisocial behaviour, reducing reoffending, and working in partnership to tackle domestic abuse. As respected role models, our diversionary work in communities, supports young people - particularly those at risk of offending - with the aim of avoiding them entering the justice system, as well as working with those who have already entered.

There is scope for the SFRS to work with partners to deliver effective harm prevention measures through a more holistic approach to assessing risk and to take action to reduce or remove it.

For example, responding to help those who do fall, or installing equipment in the home to prevent future accidents.

This will give increased confidence to the most vulnerable people living independently. In addition, by increasing the prevention and intervention reach of the SFRS, there is potential to reduce the burden on NHS and social care services.

At present, our operating model limits the time firefighters can spend on meaningful prevention, intervention and diversion work. A transformed operating model would see more availability at the optimum time to conduct this work - further reducing the risk of fires but also delivering real benefits in demand and cost reduction for health, social care and justice.

We have set out earlier in this consultation the Emergency Medical Response role that firefighters can play. This would support our valued colleagues in the Ambulance Service, rendering critical initial aid until further assistance arrives.





We can operate more efficiently

Aligning resource to need

The fire and rescue service, as we know it, was established via the Fire Services Act 1947. And, although the legislation governing the SFRS has been modernised the operating model established 70 years ago has remained fundamentally unchanged.

The current operating model means that the Service has the same number of firefighters and fire appliances irrespective of the time of day. However, long term incident statistics show that more incidents occur during daytime hours than late at night or the early hours.

In addition, fire engines can cover ground much more quickly at night when traffic is lighter - yet our model does not reflect this.

Our resources are simply not being used as efficiently and effectively as they could be. By rebalancing our people against today's risks and demands, they can deliver even more for Scotland.

This would be achieved through greater flexibility in crewing models, a more effective allocation of fire appliances and a wider firefighter role - all of which are explored in more detail below.

A more effective crewing model

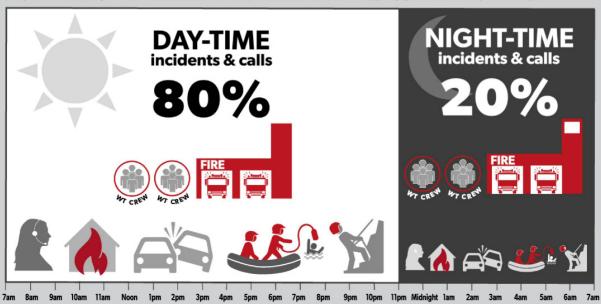
SFRS is the only fire and rescue service in mainland Britain to deploy designated 'first' appliances with a minimum crew of five, and the designated 'second' appliance a minimum crew of four (5+4). All 51 fire and rescue services in England and Wales¹ safely operate with a 4+4 crewing system, or a variation utilising the same number of firefighters.

There is, therefore, significant scope for SFRS to move to a safe yet more efficient model, allowing us to release more of our people to undertake work where there is now new risk and demand. In addition, this will free up resource to reward firefighters for taking on a new role.

We also believe there could be a more flexible solution for night-time crewing which would safely meet the demand between the hours of 11pm and 7am. Our current system of employing the same number of wholetime firefighters day and night leads to a situation where a significant number are on duty during times of low activity.

These night-time duty patterns also limit the opportunity for firefighters to be deployed to carry out vital preventative work or to engage with partner organisations.

Day-time and night-time demand is not equal but the number of firefighters on duty is always the same



Your service.... Your voice

Future crewing models?





Options to better align resource to need?

Whilst the SFRS will always have the right resources in the right place at the right time, we believe we can safely alter the nature of our response to match modern demand and risk.

Bringing together all elements of a more effective and efficient delivery model will allow the Service to deliver improved outcomes with a slightly smaller number of firefighters. This planned rebalancing of the workforce would be delivered through the retirements that are anticipated over the next four years. There would be **no** compulsory redundancies, and we would continue to recruit both wholetime and retained firefighters.

Reviewing our national footprint

One of the strengths of the fire and rescue service has been its unique station footprint, but if the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service were to plan that footprint today, it would do some things differently - again to better meet the needs of a modern Scotland.

Put simply, our stations and the resources within them were designed for another era. Many were built around industries that no longer exist, housing that has changed and moved, and are also based on older firefighting techniques. Indeed, some stations in our biggest cities were located to respond to wartime attacks.

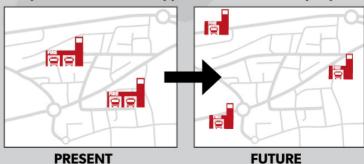
The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is much more than a collection of fire stations, but simply closing a station to save money is not in our plans.

We recognise fire stations are focal points within their local communities. It is, however, right for us to give consideration to our combined station footprint and ask if the location, and the number of people and fire appliances within our stations are right for the service they now need to deliver. By looking at activity levels, instances of false alarms and the concentration of stations in given areas, we can determine if a more effective approach can be achieved.

This could see us consider building new stations, disposing of others, re-shaping resource and combining local capabilities, including sharing facilities with our police and ambulance partners.

We will look at this in the context of a national service, which allows us to deploy resources from right across the country into communities with the greatest need.

Options to look at new approach to our national footprint?



¹Source: http://www.cfoa.org.uk/12072





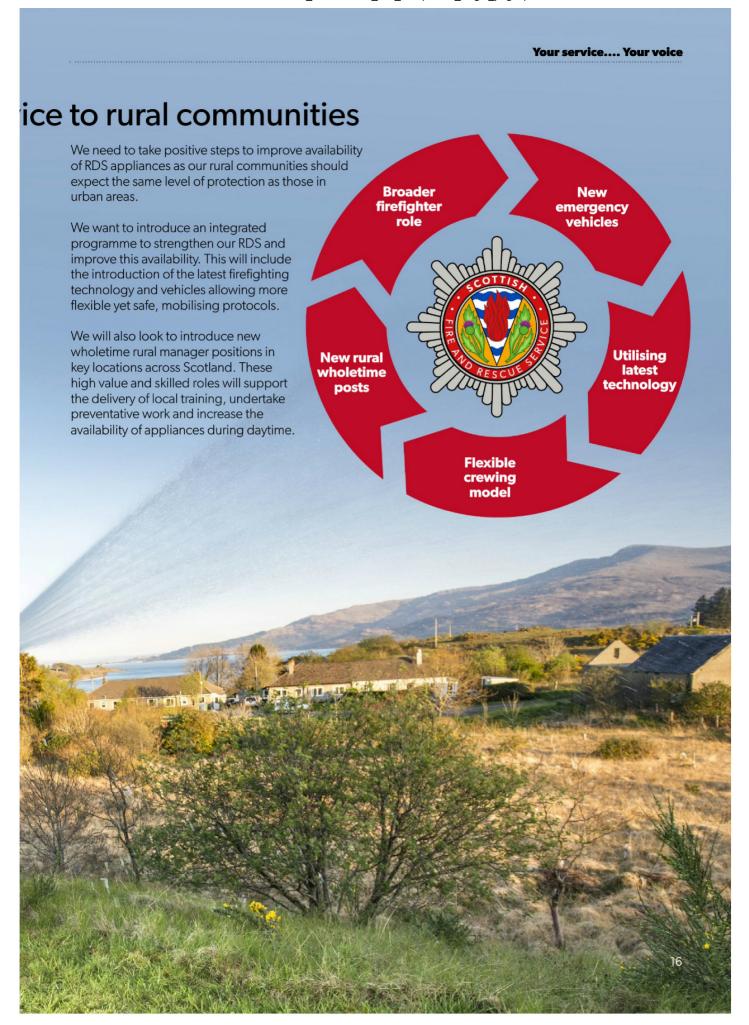
We need to take positive steps to improve availability of RDS appliances

Strengthening our serv

Some 240 of the fire stations that serve Scotland are Retained Duty System (RDS). Our RDS crew members - on call firefighters in our more rural communities - are highly trained and committed, but the delivery model they are asked to work to is no longer robust.

Recruitment and availability of RDS crew is a global issue, but for Scotland this means that on any given day up to 100 RDS fire appliances can be unavailable during daytime hours in the communities they serve - largely because we cannot secure the traditional crew of four.







Your service.... Your voice

The future firefighter

At the very heart of the SFRS transformation vision, is the future firefighter.
Undertaking a new and significantly wider role, they will be trained, equipped and rewarded for meeting new and emerging risks.

We are proposing a four-year programme that will transform both the Service and the firefighter's role.

In recognition of that new role we are proposing an enhanced recognition package. In return, we are asking firefighters to commit to a solution unique to Scotland.

Furthermore, by combining the more efficient operating model, latest technology and increased flexibility outlined throughout this consultation, means we can deliver improved outcomes with a slightly smaller frontline workforce.

A more diverse firefighter role map

- Emergency medical response
- Multi-agency response (terrorism)
- Responding to environmental events
- Wider youth and social prevention work
- Inspection and enforcement responsibilities
- New fully-harmonised Terms and Conditions – all firefighters treated equally across Scotland
- More flexible working arrangements and mobility
- Revisions to crewing models and mobilising arrangements
- The use of new operational techniques, tactics and technologies

The SFRS Strategy for safe and planned transformation

In summary, we believe safe and planned transformation will see a more effective and efficient SFRS delivering more for Scotland.

We will achieve this by:

...AND WE'LL **OUR DELIVER: VALUES** A more efficient and effective service Firefighters trained and equipped to meet new risks Safer ways of working A broader prevention role A service doing more for the people of **Scotland Transformation Strategy WE'LL DO OUR VISION** To deliver a modern, flexible and efficient fire and rescue service Operating model and resource aligned to need to meet the changing risks in our communities

Responding to this consultation Your name: Your email Are you responding on behalf of: An organisation Your organisation: As an individual Do you agree with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service overall vision for transformation? Please say in the box below what you think the main benefits for Scotland will be: Please provide your response to the following statements by ticking the relevant box: Statement Agree I trust the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to change its operating model – including station footprint - in ways that are safe for Scotland Firefighters should be trained and equipped to meet the new and emerging risks Scotland faces Firefighters should be rewarded for taking on an expanded role, and in accordance with the risks they take Latest technology should be used where possible to improve firefighter and public safety Firefighters could be trained to take on roles that would reduce the burden on other public services A more flexible approach to crewing during the late evening and early morning hours would allow firefighters to do more during the day when demand is higher Please say why you agreed or disagreed, in the box below: What single thing is most important to you about the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service? Do you think there is anything the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service should NOT do as part of transformation? Please give a reason for your answer in the box below. Do you have any final comment to make on the transformation of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service? I do not wish my response to be published Please post completed form to: Your Service.... Your voice, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service,

Management Suite, Headquarters, Westburn Drive, Cambuslang G72 7NA

Disagree No opinion



Your service.... Your voice.... Have your say

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This document has been designed and published by SFRS Corporate Communications Graphics Section

Aubrey Fawcett
BSc(Hons), DAAS, DipTP, RIBA, ARIAS, MRTPI

Chief Executive

Municipal Buildings Clyde Square Greenock PA15 1LY

Tel: 01475 712701

Chief.executive@inverclyde.gov.uk

Our Ref: AF/MM/JMcL

Your Ref:

Date: 28th March 2018

Your Service....Your Voice Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Management Suite Headquarters Westburn Drive Cambuslang G72 7NA

Dear Sir/Madam

Your Service...Your Voice- A consultation on the safe and planned future of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service

Thank you for giving Inverciyde Council the opportunity to comment on the Your Service...Your Voice consultation. This response was presented to the Inverciyde Police and Fire Scrutiny Sub-Committee on 12 April 2018 for approval.

Observations

- 1. The Council recognises that the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS) consultation is a starting point for delivering a more efficient and effective organisation at both a national and local area.
- 2. The Council do not wish to respond to the statements requiring an agree/disagree/no opinion response.
- 3. The Council acknowledges that recorded incidents in Inverciyde do show a general decline over the previous five years. However there is concern that accidental dwelling fires, deliberate fire setting and false alarms do account for a significant proportion of SFRS recorded incidents. The Council would have to be satisfied that fluctuating trends are accounted for in any proposed change.
- 4. Whilst the Council does acknowledge that there are no confirmed plans around the national footprint, there is concern that as a result of the consultation emergency response within Inverclyde could be lost. The Council therefore oppose any closures of the three existing community stations in Inverclyde.

- 5. Whilst the Council understands the need for a more effective crewing model and a review of day-time and night-time demand there is concern about the impact this could have on those communities who rely on a local Fire & Rescue Service. The Council would have to be satisfied that any changes to not negatively impact on service delivery within Inverclyde.
- 6. The Inverclyde Local Fire & Rescue Plan 2017-2020 was endorsed by Inverclyde Council Education and Communities Committee on 31st October 2017. If there were any changes within Inverclyde as a result of the consultation, we would suggest a review of the current local fire plan to ensure its continuing relevance.
- 7. The Council broadly welcomes some of the proposals around the future firefighter role especially those around the reduction of antisocial behaviour through wider youth and social prevention work and around inspection and enforcement responsibilities. The Council requests that any changes are discussed with the relevant Council services to ensure there is no duplication of service provision or gaps within existing service provision.
- 8. As the Scrutiny Lead and Community Safety Partner, the Council is fully supportive of the work SFRS play locally in contributing to Inverclyde Outcome Improvement Plan as well as the contribution to making Inverclyde a safer place.

The Council will continue to support SFRS and other partners to help provide a safe environment for our communities.

Yours sincerely



Aubrey Fawcett Chief Executive