
Report To:	Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee	Date:	26 March 2020
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	P&F/05/20/HS
Contact Officer:	Hugh Scott, Service Manager Community Learning Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport	Contact No:	01475 715450
Subject:	Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Inverclyde Local Fire and Rescue Plan: Consultation		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the consultation response in respect of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service local fire and rescue plan consultation for the Inverclyde plan.
- 1.2 The report provides members with the legislative framework of the consultation, the approach by Inverclyde Council in respect of the consultation response and the final submission of the consultation.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Following publication of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS) Strategic Plan 2019-22, SFRS is legally required under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 to prepare a local fire and rescue plan for each authority area.
- 2.2 The legislation also requires SFRS to consult on the local fire and rescue plan with such other persons as SFRS considers appropriate and subsequently an invitation was made to the Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee by the Local Senior Officer for East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde to respond to the consultation. The consultation invitation letter is appended for members' information (Appendix 1).
- 2.3 In advance of the consultation submission date to SFRS, elected members attended a briefing session on Wednesday 26 February 2020 to consider Inverclyde Council's response to the consultation. The consultation response from the Committee is included as Appendix 2.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee approves the consultation response to the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Inverclyde Local Fire and Rescue Plan.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In October 2019, SFRS published its Strategic Plan 2019-22. The plan sets out the Service's proposed direction over the three years, which includes a commitment to the delivery of a first class fire and rescue service for the people of Scotland, a sustainable service, enhancing partnership working and responding to emerging risks such as climate change.
- 4.2 The requirement for SFRS to publish a strategic plan is set out in Section 114 of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 (The Act). This section also requires the plan to set out:
- SFRS proposes to carry out its functions during the period of 3 years;
 - The outcomes by reference to which the carrying out of its functions may be measured; and
 - Such other material relating to its functions or to a period (other than the three year period) as SFRS sees fit.
- 4.3 The Act also requires SFRS to send a draft version of the plan to a number of bodies including each local authority inviting comments on the draft. A response to the draft was approved by the Committee at its meeting on 6 June 2019.
- 4.4 The Act also requires that 'as soon as is reasonably practicable after a strategic plan is approved...SFRS must prepare a local fire and rescue plan for each local authority area'. A local fire and rescue plan sets out:
- priorities and objectives for SFRS in connection with the carrying out in the local authority's area of SFRS's functions;
 - the reasons for selecting each of those priorities and objectives;
 - how SFRS proposes to deliver those priorities and objectives;
 - in so far as is reasonably practicable, outcomes by reference to which delivery of those priorities and objectives can be measured;
 - how those priorities and objectives are expected to contribute to the delivery of any other relevant local outcomes which are identified by community planning; and
 - such other matters relating to the carrying out of SFRS's functions in the local authority's area as SFRS thinks fit.

The Local Senior Officer (LSO) for East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde wrote to the Convener of the Committee inviting a response from Inverclyde Council. A copy of this letter can be found at Appendix 1.

- 4.5 The current Inverclyde local Fire and Rescue Plan (2017-2020) was approved by the former Local Police and Fire Scrutiny-Sub Committee at its meeting on 22 February 2018.

5.0 CONSULTATION RESPONSE

- 5.1 In order to prepare a response to the consultation, the Leader of the Council approved an all members' briefing in order that Inverclyde Council could consider its response to the engagement.
- 5.2 The members' briefing took place on 26 February 2020 with elected members and Council officers in attendance. The consultation sought views on the performance of SFRS locally over the previous three years with opportunities to note any activity missing from the engagement and any suggested areas for improvement.
- 5.3 Following the event a draft response was provided to members for information ahead of its submission to SFRS on 18 March 2020. A copy of the consultation response is appended for members' information at Appendix 2. Members should note that the consultation was responded to prior to its 18 March closing date.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

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

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

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

6.2 Legal

Section 114 of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, formerly Section 41 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that SFRS prepares a strategic plan.

Section 115 of the Police and Fire (Scotland) Act 2012, formerly Section 41C of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that SFRS must prepare a local fire and rescue plan for each authority area.

6.3 Human Resources

N/A.

6.4 Equalities

Equalities

(a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES (see attached appendix)
X	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
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X	NO
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(c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
X	NO

6.5 Repopulation

This structure is intended to protect and assist the local communities.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 The paper responds to a consultation request in respect of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan Review 2020.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Inverclyde Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Sub-Committee 22 February 2018
Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2017-2020 (LPFS/01/18/MM)

8.2 Inverclyde Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee 06 June 2019
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service- Draft Strategic Plan 2019-22 (P&F/08/19/HS)



Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde
5 Thornhill, Johnstone
PA5 8JH
firescotland.gov.uk

6th February 2020

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE, INVERCLYDE LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN: CONSULTATION

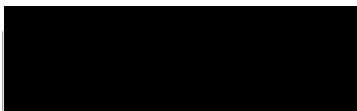
Dear Inverclyde Stakeholder,

Following publication of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Strategic Plan 2019-22 in October 2019, we will be reviewing and revising our Local Fire and Rescue Plans over the next few months. This is to ensure our local priorities align to our new strategic ambitions as well as remain relevant to local risk. As your Local Senior Officer, I will be leading this work in Inverclyde.

To support the review, my team and I will be assessing a range of statistics to determine if our activities are having the desired impact and to confirm future priority areas. Our primary focus will remain on the delivery of our core functions, but we will also consider how we may collaborate more to expand our reach and support a wider range of local needs.

Your views are an important part of this review, and I wish to invite you to participate in a short survey. The survey is available online on the <https://firescotland.citizenspace.com/planning-and-performance/local-fire-and-rescue-plan-review-2020> and will be open until 18 March 2020. In due course, I will prepare a report on the outcome of the review. This will inform what revisions will be required in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan. If you wish to discuss this further or wish to discuss any other fire and rescue service matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely



**GRAEME BINNING
LOCAL SENIOR OFFICER
EAST RENFREWSHIRE, RENFREWSHIRE & INVERCLYDE**



**LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN ENGAGEMENT
FEEDBACK RECORD**

Local Authority Area:

Inverclyde

Name of organisation/representative:

Inverclyde Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee

1. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you in how the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is performing in your area?

Very satisfied	Quite satisfied	Neither/ Nor	Quite dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
	X			

2. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you at the way in which the SFRS understands and reflects local needs in their plans and activities?

Very satisfied	Quite satisfied	Neither/ Nor	Quite dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
	X			

3. Has there been any change in the quality of services delivered by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service over the last 3 years?

Much better	A little better	No change	A little worse	Much worse
	X			

4. In the past 3 years are you aware of any changes and innovations used to improve service provision and outcomes?

Much more	A little more	No change	A little less	Much less
	X			

5. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the level of information you received on local fire and rescue activity or developments?

Very satisfied	Quite Satisfied X	Neither/ Nor	Quite dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
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6. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the level of information you receive on national fire and rescue service activity or developments?

Very satisfied	Quite Satisfied	Neither/ Nor X	Quite dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
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7. Listed below are a number of core fire and rescue services, please rate these in terms of their importance to you:

	Very Important	Quite Important	Neither/ Nor	Not important
Being prepared for and responding to fires	X			
Promoting fire safety in the home	X			
Enforcing fire safety in non-domestic buildings		X		
Being prepared for and responding to road traffic collisions or serious transport incidents	X			
Being prepared for and responding to animal rescues			X	
Being prepared for and responding to flooding incidents		X		
Helping you be prepared for emergency situations		X		

8. Listed below are other services we would like to do more of, please rate these in terms of their importance to you:

	Very Important	Quite Important	Neither/ Nor	Not important
Being prepared for and responding to acts of terrorism	X			
Working with partners to identify and help people at risk of preventable accidents in their home	X			
Working with partners to reduce crime and improve safety		X		
Working with partners to support young people		X		

Working with partners to support older people		X		
Working with partners to improve the health and wellbeing of communities		X		
Working with partners to support the local economy and those in poverty			X	

9. Are there any other fire and rescue activities which are important to you that are not listed?

Our interest (the Inverclyde Council Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee (the Committee)) is rooted in our statutory role as a scrutiny partner. Having had the opportunity to consider this question the Committee would note the following:

The primacy of agencies in responses to water safety issues require to be clearer at both a strategic level and a public level particularly given Inverclyde's coastal and inland bodies of water.

10. Are there any areas that we need to improve on in your locality?

Whilst the committee are quite satisfied in respect of how SFRS is performing in Inverclyde the committee does note the following:

- The local plan must reflect identified local needs and should not be solely directed by national priorities;
- The categorisation of incidents and the subsequent responses based on those categorisations should be clear to members of the public;
- There should be a continued focus on harm reduction through the promotion of targeted preventative measures;
- Appropriate contingency planning should be in place to ensure sufficient local cover is maintained whilst responding to large scale or multiple incidents; and
- Specific local risks, which would require a specialist response, should be identified, planned for and appropriately resourced at a local level to minimise response delays e.g. incidents in tunnels, disused quarries and localised mine workings.

Specifically in respect of the role SFRS plays local in terms of both scrutiny and as a community planning partner:

- The Committee welcomed a recent input relating to Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals delivered by way of a thematic report;
- Thematic/Spotlight reports should be used to enhance reporting to scrutiny boards and provide additional context where numbers are low and statistical reporting does not provide a clear picture;

- Further opportunities for cross-agency working to continue to deliver harm reduction work and improve targeted preventative measures should be identified. As noted in our response to previous questions the Committee notes the ongoing work between SFRS and local agencies and is keen to ensure that this continues;
- Across Inverclyde there are a range of community groups in terms of geographical based and interested based, the Community would suggest that local fire stations should increase their engagement with community based representatives such as Community Councils and Tenants & Residents Groups; and
- Good relations should be maintained between regional and local fire officers and local authority staff.

During the delivery of the 2017-20 Inverclyde local fire and rescue plan, the Committee responded to the SFRS consultation “Your service Your voice” and had raised concern regarding the national footprint and its potential implications within Inverclyde. The Committee retains its original position that it would oppose any closures of the three existing community stations in Inverclyde or any reduction in resources in said stations, however is keen to ensure that the status of the local stations as community assets should be highlighted in the forthcoming plan.

In general the Committee acknowledges that SFRS are undergoing a transformation journey and welcomes the commitment from the Chief Officer and SFRS Board, in the Strategic Plan 2019-22, to continue such proactive engagement with stakeholders as the transformation journey progresses to meet ongoing public service challenges. The Committee does request that consideration is given, in the next local fire and rescue plan for Inverclyde, on the impact that this transformation journey may have on delivery locally.

MORE ABOUT YOU

We would like to ask a few more questions about you. Because we have a duty to meet the needs of people across our diverse communities, it would help us to know the range of people who gave us feedback.

We can also use monitoring to determine whether our services are accessible, whether our policies have a disproportionate, unfair or positive impact on particular groups and whether members of those groups are satisfied with the service they receive.

This section is **optional**. Any responses you do provide will be anonymised.

11 Your age:

Please select only one item

Under 16	
16-25	
26-40	
41-55	
56-70	
Over 70	
Prefer not to say	X

12 Your gender:

Please select only one item

Female	
Male	
Prefer not to say	X

13 Your gender identity:

Do you, or have you ever, identified as a transgender or trans person?

Please select only one item

Yes	
No	
Prefer not to say	X

14 Your ethnicity:

Please select only one item

White Scottish		Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British: Pakistani		African: Other	
White Other British		Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British: Indian		Caribbean, Caribbean Scottish or Caribbean British	
White Irish		Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British: Bangladeshi		Black, Black Scottish or Black British	
White Gypsy Traveller		Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British: Chinese		Arab, Arab Scottish or Arab British	
White Polish		African: African, African Scottish or African British		Other ethnic group	
Mixed or multiple ethnic group		African: Black, Black Scottish or Black British		Prefer not to say	X

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If you chose an 'other' option please state your ethnicity here

15 Your sexual orientation:

Please select only one item

Heterosexual	
Gay/Lesbian	
Bisexual	
Prefer not to say	X

16 Your religion or belief:

Please select only one item

None		Muslim		Buddhist	
Church of Scotland		Sikh		Other religion	
Roman Catholic		Hindu		Prefer not to say	X
Other Christian		Jewish			

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If you chose 'other' please state your religion or belief here

17 Do you have caring responsibilities?

Please select only one item

Yes, for children under 18	
Yes, I am a foster carer	
Yes, I provide kinship care	
Yes, elderly dependent	
Yes, person with a disability	
No	
Prefer not to say	X

18 Are you care experienced?

Care experienced means you are or were formally looked after by a local authority, in the family home (with support from social services or a social worker) or elsewhere, for example, in foster care, residential/secure care, or kinship care (with family friends or relatives).

Please select only one item

Yes	
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No	
Prefer not to say	X

GIVE US YOUR VIEWS

Once you have completed this questionnaire, please email it to:

SFRS.StrategicPlanning@firescotland.gov.uk

Or by post to:

Louise Patrick
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
West Service Delivery Headquarters
99 Bothwell Road
Hamilton
ML3 0EA