

Report to:	Inverclyde Council, Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Date of Report:	11 February 2016
Report by:	Martin Gordon, Local Senior Officer (LSO) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Subject:	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Report (supplement)
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PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to provide supplementary information to the Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Sub-Committee for the meeting on 18th February 2016 (Agenda- page 12, section 5 headed "Local Resources Update")

BACKGROUND

2. On 21 December 2015 crewing levels on the Arial Rescue Pump (ARP) at Greenock Fire Station were reduced from 6 personnel to 5 personnel, to bring crewing levels in line with ARP Crewing levels in the rest of Scotland. The following information is provided for the information of the Sub-Committee:

- The crewing level of 6 personnel on the ARP was introduced in the former Strathclyde Fire & Rescue (SFR) when these combined appliances were introduced into the Service in 2005/2006. These took over from dedicated high reach appliances such as Hydraulic Platforms and Turntable Ladders and were designed to operate as both a firefighting/rescue appliance as well as operate as a high reach vehicle. The Service has approximately 10 years' worth of data which has shown that the when the vehicle is in use, in practical terms, the Officer in Charge invariably will operate the vehicle with one of the assets i.e. as a traditional firefighting vehicle or as a high reach vehicle and will call on additional resources should they be required.
- Since the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was formed in 2013, resources have been realigned so that they are reflected the same across the country. SFR was the only former Service which operated with 6 riders on an ARP Appliance. All other former Services operated these vehicles successfully with 5 riders.
- The Service has mapped every single property in Scotland and has set against each property a Pre-Determined Attendance (PDA). A standard PDA for a tenement property would be 2 pumps and 1 high reach. This means that should a call be received for a fire in any address, the SFRS Command & Control Centre knows what type and how many appliances to dispatch as the initial turnout. Up until December 2015 should a property require a PDA of a high reach vehicle and the station proposed had an ARP available this would be dispatched along with another traditional fire engine, known as a pump, this PDA would take on the role of the 2 pumps and a high reach and would provide a total of 10-11 personnel at the immediate disposal of the Officer in Charge.

- Since December 2015 this same Fire PDA would attract the same 2 vehicles (ARP and pump), however the ARP will now be dispatched as a dedicated high reach vehicle and an additional pump would also be sent from the next nearest fire station. This now means that the Officer in Charge has 9-10 personnel for immediate use and an additional 4-5 personnel en-route from the next nearest station, meaning that the Officer in Charge will have up to 15 personnel available within a very short period of time. The majority of high reach calls within Inverclyde are within Greenock, meaning this additional appliance is likely to be coming from Port Glasgow or Gourrock. This is common practice within this part of the Service area.
- The Service has consulted widely with partners and with representative bodies on this issue and station based personnel have been involved in the implementation of this move to 5 riders. As the Local Senior Officer (LSO) I am content and confident that this change will not affect public safety or firefighter safety.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Sub-Committee members are asked to note the contents of this report supplement.