
NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

25 August 2020

Police Fire and Rescue Committee

Title: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Consultation on Local Plans

Purpose: To advise the Committee of the response submitted in response to the consultation request.

Recommendation: That the Committee notes the response submitted.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) was preparing its Local Fire and Rescue Plans after publication of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Strategic Plan 2019-22 in October 2019. The views of local authorities were sought through a consultation document.

2. Background

2.1 The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) published its Strategic Plan 2019-22 in October 2019 and was reviewing and revising its Local Fire and Rescue Plans to reflect the new Strategic Plan. The Committee was requested to respond to a consultation request to inform the content of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan by responding to a series of questions.

2.2 At the last Committee on 4th February 2020, the Senior Manager, Legal Services was instructed to prepare a response for submission to SFRS after consulting with the Chair of the Committee. In accordance with the instructions of the Committee, the response was prepared and lodged on 2nd March 2020. A copy of the response is attached at Appendix 1.

2.3 The response highlighted the importance of the local SFRS continuing to be able to respond to emergencies as core functions as well as the preventative strategy to improve outcomes for communities and protect people from harm. The excellent service provided locally by SFRS was acknowledged.

3. Proposals

3.1 That the Committee notes the response submitted to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Human Resources

4.2 There are no Human Resources implications arising from this report.

Legal

4.3 There are no Legal implications arising from this report.

Equality/Socio-economic

4.4 The SFRS will assess the outcomes of the consultation exercise for equality, diversity and socio-economic outcomes.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5 There are no Environmental implications arising from this report.

Key Priorities

4.6 The response to the consultation contributes to the Council's priorities of developing and promoting Aspiring Communities in North Ayrshire with active and strong communities where residents and communities are safe.

Community Wealth Building

4.7 There are no Community Wealth Building benefits arising from this report.

5. Consultation

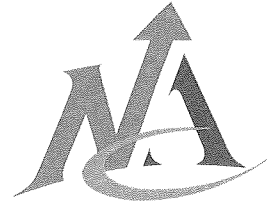
5.1 The SFRS will consult on any actions they propose to take in response to the consultation responses received from members of the public and strategic partners.

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive

For further information please contact **Aileen Craig, Senior Manager, Legal Services**, on 01294 324322.

Background Papers

Appendix 1



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

**Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Consultation
Local Fire and Rescue Plan Review 2020
Response from North Ayrshire Council**

Background

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) is undertaking a survey on Local Fire and Rescue Plans for 2020 to deliver a fire and rescue service that serves our communities and meets demand including new and emerging risks.

Consultation Request

SFRS have asked for our views on current service provision and on what should be included in the local fire and rescue plan.

Response

North Ayrshire Council considers that the local plan needs to deliver in the following broad areas:-

- Delivery of a high quality and sustainable fire and rescue service available to respond immediately to emergency situations which arise in our communities;
- Have a collaborative approach and targeted prevention and protection activities to improve community safety and wellbeing and support sustainable economic growth;
- Have a flexible operational model to respond to diverse community risks;
- Ensure there is a motivated, skilled and well cared for locally based staff who are empowered to deliver services

The Council recognises that all public services need to ensure that they are fit to serve and meet the needs of local communities in accordance with the principles of the Christie Commission. The Council therefore welcomes the opportunity to contribute in the formulation of the local plan, adapted to the needs of the local community. The Council makes the further following comments to assist with the formulation of the local plan: -

- The core the functions of the SFRS are to deal with emergencies that arise as well as contribute to a preventative/educative programme to keep our communities safe. In addition, the service needs to be responsive and prepared for changing demands. In terms of core fire and rescue services, it is vital that the Service is able to deal with:-
 - Being prepared for and responding to fires
 - Being prepared for and responding to road traffic /transport incidents
 - Being prepared for and responding to flooding incidents particularly given the demands of climate change
 - Being prepared for and responding to acts of terrorism

- Other areas of importance from a preventative/educative perspective include:-
 - working the partners and communities to identify and reduce preventable accidents in the home, with emphasis on vulnerable groups;
 - Working with partners and communities to reduce deliberate fire setting
 - Promotion of general fire safety and emergency preparedness programmes;
 - Working to reduce the incidence of unwanted fire alarms to avoid diversion of essential service from other areas of need. The Council would welcome an action plan in this regard.
- The contribution of SFRS to Community Planning should continue and resources should be made available to deliver local outcomes and improvement plans.
- The preventative strategy is welcomed to improve outcomes for communities and protect people from harm. It is recognised that this is an increased area of demand with our aging population and the work being done by SFRS in assisting to keep people safe and prevent them from coming to harm is a valuable contributor to public service delivery. Working in collaboration with the other emergency services in this regard makes good sense.
- Recognising the diversity of local areas and the specific needs of communities is vital. In North Ayrshire, this is being demonstrated on Arran and Cumbrae where new response vehicles are being deployed to better meet the needs of the community.
- SFRS should continue to engage with local communities to build confidence in the service and establish and foster relationships with a view to the prevention agenda and supporting communities.
- The contribution of SFRS as an employer in the local area makes a difference in the local economy and community. The continued availability and retention of quality local jobs should be a priority as a contributor to the area.
- Governance and accountability should form a key part of monitoring the implementation of the local plan to ensure that outcomes are met.
- Investment in IT and digital solutions is recognised as key in developing a modern fire and rescue service which is fit for purpose.

Comments on current service provision

North Ayrshire Council has an excellent partnership with its local fire and rescue service which provides excellent service, is approachable and responsive to need and open to discussion and suggestions on tackling issues that emerge locally.

The involvement of the SFRS in early interventionist multi-agency work in North Ayrshire has been excellent through involvement at the multi-agency Adult Support and Protection Committee helping to work on approaches to reduce harm to vulnerable adults.

The Council has an excellent working relationship with the Local Area Commander and his officers both at strategic and operational level. The positive level of

engagement of SFRS at the Police Fire and Rescue Committee has been most welcome. Excellent statistical information is provided to the Committee on a quarterly basis with additional information provided as required. The professionalism of the local commander and his officers is valued and appreciated by the Committee.

The approach of localism is vital with local commanders being empowered to deliver services according to local need and demands. In North Ayrshire we have had excellent service from SFRS which delivers well for our communities and we look forward to that continuing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aileen Craig'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Aileen' written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name 'Craig'.

Aileen Craig
Senior Manager Legal Services
North Ayrshire Council