
NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

29 November 2021

Police Fire and Rescue Committee

Title: Fire and Rescue Framework Consultation

Purpose: To advise the Committee of the consultation request and seek feedback to enable provision of a consultation response.

Recommendation: That the Committee provides feedback to enable the submission of a consultation response.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Scottish Ministers have a statutory duty in terms of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 as amended to prepare a Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland setting priorities and objectives and providing guidance to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) on the execution of its functions. In preparing the Framework, Ministers require to consult with SFRS, bodies representing SFRS staff, COSLA and any other relevant bodies which includes local authorities. The consultation seeks views on the next Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland.
- 1.2 The Committee is requested to provide feedback to enable the provision of a consultation response.

2. Background

- 2.1 Scottish Ministers have a statutory duty in terms of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 as amended to prepare a Fire and Rescue Framework ("the Framework") for Scotland. The Framework sets out Scottish Ministers' expectations of the SFRS and provides it with strategic priorities and objectives, together with guidance on how the delivery of its functions should contribute to the Scottish Government's purpose. SFRS has a statutory duty to have regard to the Framework when preparing its Strategic Plan which sets out how it will deliver its functions as well as setting out the outcomes which will be used to measure its performance in doing so. SFRS is about to develop its Strategic Plan for 2022-2025 and will take account of the priorities and objectives set out in the Framework when seeking views on how it has performed against its current Strategic Plan 2019-2022 to inform that process.

2.2 The Framework published by Scottish Ministers for consultation contains 7 outcome focussed strategic priorities which are summarised at Appendix 1. These are: -

- Strategic Priority 1 – Prevention and Protection
- Strategic Priority 2 – Response
- Strategic Priority 3 – Innovation and Modernisation
- Strategic Priority 4 – Climate Change
- Strategic Priority 5 – Effective Governance and Performance
- Strategic Priority 6 – People
- Strategic Priority 7 - Partnership

2.3 The Committee is asked to consider the priorities outlined in Appendix 1 and provide feedback to enable a response to the consultation to be formulated and submitted. Views will be collated and considered by Scottish Ministers in finalisation of the Framework.

3. Proposals

3.1 That the Committee (i) provides feedback on the proposed Strategic Priorities outlined in greater detail at Appendix 1 to enable a consultation response to be formulated and (ii) to authorise the Head of Service (Democratic) to submit a response to the Scottish Government on behalf of the Committee in consultation with the Chair.

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

Aileen Craig
Head of Service (Democratic)

For further information please contact **Aileen Craig, Head of Service (Democratic)**, on 01294 324125.

Background Papers

Appendix 1

SFRS Strategic Priorities (Framework)

Strategic Priority 1 - Prevention and Protection

The overriding purpose of SFRS remains to improve the safety and well-being of communities. A priority for SFRS is preventing fires and reducing their human, social and economic impact. SFRS should use an evidence-based approach to target groups and individuals according to risk, and universal population wide activities, to improve fire and wider community safety. These should contribute to reducing inequality and encouraging sustainable and inclusive growth. SFRS should work with public, private and voluntary organisations; communities and individuals where they can add value and contribute to outcomes.

Strategic Priority 2 - Response

In conjunction with effectively addressing risk, SFRS should ensure that the capability of its assets and staff, combined with technological improvements, enable it to respond to incidents with the right resources at the right time across communities in Scotland. The Service should embrace a flexible, innovative and inclusive approach to its service delivery and resilience planning, ensuring its response resources and crewing arrangements are aligned to current and future risks.

Strategic Priority 3 – Innovation and Modernisation

SFRS should continually improve and modernise the service it provides so that it can do more to improve outcomes for communities across Scotland. Modernisation proposals should be considered, developed and delivered using sound evidence and should include but not be limited to ensuring SFRS is using its people, assets and financial resources in the most efficient and effective manner and that the role of firefighters is modernised to allow the Service to address new and emerging risks in our communities.

Strategic Priority 4 – Climate Change

SFRS should continue working with other public sector partners and communities to support action to address the climate emergency including the challenges of more extreme weather events. SFRS should do so by preventing and reducing its own greenhouse gas emissions and working to ensure Scotland's communities are resilient and safe in response to the changing climate. SFRS's corporate response to the Climate Emergency should include, for example, commitment towards transitioning over to ultra-low emission fleets, renewable energy and heat; low carbon buildings and materials; and wherever possible, maximising the positive impact procurement can have on addressing the Climate Emergency.

Strategic Priority 5 - Effective Governance and Performance

SFRS should ensure it has an effective approach to performance management to support robust scrutiny of the Service at national and local levels. This approach should be regularly reviewed and evaluated in pursuit of continuous improvement. SFRS should also collect, produce and analyse data and other intelligence to inform actions to promote the safety and well-being of communities, support operational efficiency and performance improvements (including its partnership contributions) and enable effective public reporting of performance.

Strategic Priority 6 - People

SFRS should continue to be a Fair Work employer and develop as an employer of choice. It should promote the equality, safety and physical and mental health of all its staff. SFRS should continue to maximise the effectiveness of its approach to workforce and succession planning and should be a learning organisation with equal opportunities for all. SFRS should ensure it enables innovation and change through its People Strategy. SFRS should actively strive to be an organisation that is more representative of the people and communities of Scotland that it serves.

Strategic Priority 7 – Partnership Working

Partnership Working with others such as other blue light emergency services, public, private and voluntary organisations and Scotland's communities should be ingrained throughout SFRS. This includes but goes beyond the important and statutory work undertaken through the established Community Planning Partnerships. Partnerships should develop joined up policies to multidimensional problems. Innovative leadership should be provided to facilitate the identification of collaborative opportunities, making the best use of public resources. The aims should be to achieve community safety, drive out inefficiencies, where possible, whilst achieving operational efficiencies and effectiveness to ultimately improve outcomes for our Scottish communities.