

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 27 FEBRUARY 2013

**CONSULTATION ON THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S REVISED
FIRE AND RESCUE FRAMEWORK FOR SCOTLAND 2013****Report by Executive Director (Housing and Community Care)****ABSTRACT**

This report outlines a suggested response to the consultation on the Scottish Government's Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013.

1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Council approve the response to the Scottish Government's consultation on the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013 as outlined in Appendix II to this report.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The current Policing and Fire and Rescue services in Scotland were formed in 1975 as the result of local government reorganisation. Eight Police and Fire and Rescue services were established at this time.
- 2.2 In 2012 the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act was passed by the Scottish Parliament. This amalgamated the eight Police forces into a single national Police Service of Scotland and the eight Fire and Rescue Services into a national Scottish Fire and Rescue Service both with effect from 1 April 2013.

3. FIRE AND RESCUE FRAMEWORK FOR SCOTLAND 2013

- 3.1 Section 40 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 requires Scottish Ministers to prepare a Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland. The Scottish Government has published a draft revised version for consultation, which takes into account the change to a single Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), and is attached at Appendix I.

4. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

- 4.1 The SFRS has 12 members, including the Chair, Pat Watters. The responsibilities of the SFRS are similar to the current Fire and Rescue Boards. It is accountable to Ministers and Parliament.

4.2 The SFRS are responsible for:

- Promoting fire safety
- Fire fighting
- Responding to road traffic accidents
- Enforcing fire safety legislation in relevant premises; and
- Responding to any other eventualities likely to cause death, injury or illness, or harm to the environment
- Responding to chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear incidents
- Providing urban search and rescue capability
- Responding to serious flooding
- Responding to serious transport incidents

4.3 The SFRS are obliged to have regard to the Fire and Rescue Framework when developing their strategic plan. It will also influence local plans which will require to be agreed by local authorities by the end of March 2013.

4.4 None of the priorities or objectives detailed in the framework conflict with those of Perth and Kinross Council or the Perth and Kinross Community Planning Partnership.

4.5 The closing date for the consultation is 22 February 2013. The Scottish Government has been informed that the response will be delayed, awaiting the decision of this meeting.

4.6 A suggested response to the draft Framework is attached at Appendix II.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 The relevant documents were made available to elected members and the comments received have been considered in the preparation of the suggested response which is attached at Appendix II.

5.2 Tayside Fire and Rescue have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no resource implications arising from this report.

7. COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN OBJECTIVES 2009-2012

7.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2009-2012 lays out five Objectives which provide clear strategic direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resources allocation. This report relates to delivery of the following three Corporate Objectives:-

- (i) A Safe, Secure and Welcoming Environment
- (ii) Healthy, Caring Communities
- (v) Confident, Active and Inclusive Communities

8. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EqIA)

- 8.1 An equality impact assessment needs to be carried out for functions, policies, procedures or strategies in relation to race, gender and disability and other relevant protected characteristics. This supports the Council's legal requirement to comply with the duty to assess and consult on relevant new and existing policies.

The function, policy, procedure or strategy presented in this report was considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:

- i) Assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA

9 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 The plan, programme or strategy presented in this report was considered under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the determination was made that the items summarised in this report do not require further action as they do not qualify as a plan, programme or strategy as defined by the Act.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 The emphasis on partnership working at a local level from the draft Fire and Rescue Framework is to be welcomed.

DAVID BURKE

Executive Director (Housing and Community Care)

Note: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

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Date: 6 February 2013

If you or someone you know would like a copy of this document in another language or format, (on occasion only, a summary of the document will be provided in translation), this can be arranged by contacting John Irons



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Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013

Consultation

CONTENTS

	Page
INTRODUCTION	2
CHAPTER 1: The New Landscape	11
CHAPTER 2: Improved Service Outcomes and Protecting Frontline Services	17
CHAPTER 3: More Equal Access to Specialist Resources and National Capacity	24
CHAPTER 4: Strengthened connection between the SFRS and communities	27
ANNEX A	31
ANNEX B	35

INTRODUCTION

1. The Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013 ('the Framework') provides priorities and objectives for the new Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), with guidance and support on the carrying out of its functions set in the context of the overarching purpose that the SFRS should adhere to. It sets out Scottish Ministers' expectations of the SFRS as the challenge of bringing together the best from the previous eight Fire and Rescue Services to create a modern, effective and efficient SFRS continues. 1 April 2013 is not the end of the Fire Reform journey, but marks a significant milestone in this major public service reform programme.

Context

2. The Scottish Government's Purpose places sustainable economic growth as the central ambition across the Scottish public sector, and the SFRS has a crucial role to play in helping to achieve that Purpose. The Purpose is underpinned by five strategic objectives: to make Scotland **wealthier & fairer, smarter, healthier, safer & stronger, and greener**. The SFRS makes a contribution across all five of these strategic objectives, although its core contribution is in making our communities **safer and stronger**.

3. Sixteen national outcomes support these strategic objectives and the work of the SFRS contributes to many of these, although four in particular underpin our shared aspirations:

- ◆ **we live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger** (National Outcome 9);
- ◆ **we have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others** (National Outcome 11);
- ◆ **our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs** (National Outcome 16); and
- ◆ **we live longer, healthier lives** (National Outcome 6).

Legislative background

4. The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 ('the 2012 Act') provides the statutory basis for fire reform, creating the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (the SFRS) to replace the existing fire and rescue authorities and joint fire and rescue boards. The 2012 Act establishes the SFRS to provide fire and rescue services across Scotland. This will include the Scottish Fire College, the Firelink communications system and specialist capacity to respond to chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear incidents. The 2012 Act also amends some of the fire safety responsibilities to take account of fire reform.

5. The legislation governing the fire and rescue services was modernised in the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 ('the 2005 Act') and the 2012 Act therefore builds on the 2005 Act, amending it to establish a single service.

6. Part 2 of the 2012 Act amends the 2005 Act, in particular to:

- ◆ establish the SFRS as a corporate body with clear national governance arrangements and responsibilities for the oversight, administration and delivery of fire and rescue services in Scotland;
- ◆ ensure that the fire and rescue functions set out in the 2005 Act apply to the SFRS, including the promotion of fire safety;
- ◆ restate powers to obtain assistance in carrying out fire and rescue service functions;
- ◆ provide statutory Best Value duties for the SFRS;
- ◆ put in place statutory planning and reporting requirements including providing statistics;
- ◆ require the production of a strategic plan for the approval of the Scottish Ministers, and an annual report and accounts;
- ◆ arrangements for the transfer of existing staff and the employment of new staff;
- ◆ make new arrangements for strengthening local engagement and partnership working, including a new statutory role in the Local Senior Officer and development of local fire and rescue plans linked to community planning, along with clear powers for local authorities in relation to the provision of fire and rescue services in their area; and
- ◆ replace the Chief Inspector, Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors of Fire and Rescue Authorities with a Chief Inspector, Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors of the Fire and Rescue Service (Inspectors of SFRS).

A Modern Purpose for Fire and Rescue

7. The reform which establishes the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is a key element of the Scottish Government's public service reform agenda. The SFRS will have a specific purpose aimed at making a real difference for our society and our economy:

"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."

8. The new purpose articulates the Scottish Government's vision for the SFRS focusing on the achievement of better outcomes for the people and communities throughout Scotland, leading to improved safety and wellbeing but also reflecting ways of operating in the 21st century. It reflects the excellent work it carries out in supporting and promoting community safety and well-being, through, for example, community safety initiatives and partnership working with health, education, and local authorities focused on prevention and early intervention, in order to improve

outcomes. The purpose places the new local scrutiny and engagement arrangements to the heart of SFRS core business.

9. This outcome-focused purpose will help to ensure that the delivery of fire and rescue services in Scotland continues to be dynamic, effective and trusted, working in partnership to make communities safer and stronger, through prevention and community engagement.

10. There was broad support for the focus on partnership working amongst those who responded to the draft purpose proposed in the consultation on Reforming Police and Fire and Rescue Services in Scotland (September 2011), with some commenting that it would further enable SFRS to participate fully in the wider public protection and community safety agenda. The emphasis on better outcomes and the focus on prevention were also welcomed. Following specific suggestions from respondents, the wording of the purpose has been adapted to make the purpose more inclusive of people living in (not just of) and across Scotland; to strengthen references to partnership working; and to include an explicit reference to community engagement. This purpose will be delivered through the aims for fire reform and the strategic priorities outlined in this document.

SFRS functions

11. The statutory functions of the fire and rescue service are not changing (although the SFRS will become the fire safety enforcing authority for civil Crown premises). Under the new Purpose, this Framework places those existing statutory functions within a context of improving outcomes, promoting community engagement, prevention and partnership working and public service reform.

12. The existing legislative functions, which were reviewed as recently as 2005, remain, with a continued focus on prevention (reducing the risk of and changing people's perception and behaviour towards fire), protection (mitigating the effects of fire) and flexible response (to incidents). The functions set out in the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 (the 2005 Act) to be transferred to the new Scottish Fire and Rescue Service include:

- ◆ Promoting fire safety (including providing advice, information, publicity and encouragement to prevent fires and death or injury from fires and to reduce losses);
- ◆ Fire fighting;
- ◆ Responding to road traffic accidents;
- ◆ Enforcing fire safety legislation in relevant premises; and
- ◆ Responding to any other eventualities likely to cause death, injury or illness, or harm to the environment (including buildings).

13. The fire and rescue functions in the Fire (Additional Function) Scotland Order 2005, made under section 11 of the 2005 Act have also been transferred to the SFRS:

- ◆ Responding to chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear incidents;
- ◆ Providing urban search and rescue capability;
- ◆ Responding to serious flooding; and
- ◆ Responding to serious transport incidents.

SFRS values

14. The creation of a single Fire and Rescue Service for Scotland provides an exciting opportunity for the Service to define its core values and ethos in a way which exemplifies a modern, effective public service organisation. Scottish Ministers recognise that defining and delivering those values and ethos, shaped by the Purpose, and driving its approach to the discharge of these statutory functions, is a matter for the Service, but anticipate that they will reflect:

- ◆ a bold vision and outward looking focus, where everything which is done within the Service is challenged on its benefit to the people of Scotland and the stated outcomes and priorities of the organisation;
- ◆ a fundamental commitment to ensuring that services are delivered fairly and in a way which ensure equality and recognises diversity;
- ◆ a commitment to community engagement and local democratic scrutiny;
- ◆ probity and transparency across and within the functions of the Service; and
- ◆ a commitment by the Board, Chief Officer and senior management team to lead by example in the delivery of these values.

Partnership working

15. The new SFRS must not work alone. It should build on the existing partnership work with the other emergency services and category one responders to enhance Scotland's resilience. It should build on existing partnerships with a range of local organisations to drive down risks in the community, and continue to build on its partnerships with a range of other justice sector bodies in its focus on the vulnerable and most at risk. That whole system approach across the justice sector has recently been formalised in the **Strategy for Justice in Scotland**¹, which sets out our approach to making the justice system in Scotland fit for the 21st century and the role each of the key services can play in delivering a safer and stronger Scotland. The justice system is broadly defined to include the many people and organisations who work to keep our communities safe and to administer justice in its various forms; the SFRS is a vital part of this system. **Priority 6** of the strategy focuses on **reducing the harm from fires and other emergencies**, and **priority 8** on **strengthening community engagement and resilience**. The new SFRS shall have regard to the strategy in drawing up its strategic plan.

¹ www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/09/5924

16. The community safety and resilience landscape in Scotland is dynamic and diverse. In recent years, Fire & Rescue Services have developed strong links with various partners including local authorities, emergency responders, other community planning agencies and businesses to identify and tackle national and local risk-based priorities.

17. The recent context of public service reform is founded on the benefits of working collaboratively towards shared outcomes that are focused on prevention. This is complemented by the formal duties the Service has under section 16 of the **Local Government in Scotland Act 2003** (as amended by the 2012 Act) to participate in the community planning process and to work with partners to prepare for and respond to emergencies effectively under the **Civil Contingencies Act 2004** (and associated regulations).

18. Closer engagement with local communities remains fundamental to service improvements be they in: responding effectively to incidents; integrating risk management processes; building resilience; or enhancing prevention & protection activities. The SFRS must be transparent and accountable to communities for the services it delivers, creating opportunities for de-centralisation and reducing duplication.

Strategic Priorities

- The SFRS should embed partnership working throughout its business, building on the existing partnerships with other emergency responders and local service providers, as well as forging a partnership approach to working with the Scottish Government, the wider justice sector, and with workforce representative bodies.
- The SFRS should work in partnership with a diverse range of communities and stakeholders at all levels (including individual households, businesses, the third sector and other public authorities) in order to improve problem solving and achieve better outcomes.
- The SFRS should build community resilience and cohesion by:
 - empowering communities – making them aware of the risks they face;
 - supporting communities – to take simple steps to improve their own safety (from fires and other risks that can lead to the need for rescue); and
 - harnessing community resources and expertise – so that preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies is a partnership between the service and the communities themselves.
- To effectively manage and plan a response to foreseeable risks in the community, it is crucial that the SFRS actively collaborates with partners, both at a local and national level.

Equality and Diversity

19. As an essential public service right at the heart of our communities, the SFRS must strive to meet its equalities duties in respect of corporate decision making and

accountability, employment practice, workplace culture and service delivery. The mainstreaming of equality across policy and practice is key to the delivery of services relevant to the needs of communities, and the fostering of a healthy and prosperous workplace. Improving performance across all equality groups and in all that it does as an employer and service provider must remain at the core of the SFRS business objectives.

20. It is an objective that leadership on mainstreaming equality is provided from within the SFRS and that the corporate decision making, planning, approval, scrutiny and accountability mechanisms support this ambition.

21. The Scottish Government recognises that appropriate, effective and responsive public services cannot be developed in isolation of the recipient of those services and that partnership working and appropriate community involvement are essential. By equality impact assessing its policies, practices and functions, the SFRS will need to gather and analyse the evidence relating to different groups of people, including the disabled, minority ethnic communities, the elderly and so on. By assessing the impact of their services, policies and practices against the needs of equality groups, the SFRS will be better equipped to deliver a service that meets the needs of Scotland's diverse communities. Impact assessment is a key tool to support the continuous improvement of public services and to prevent discrimination or barriers to service arising in the first place.

22. The Scottish Government believes that an employer that recognises and values the diversity of its employees is one most able to provide a modern, efficient and effective public service. The SFRS must therefore foster a workplace culture where all employees are treated with dignity and respect, feel valued for their contribution and are encouraged to develop to reach their full potential. A key component of this objective is the need to demonstrate that individuals are appointed and promoted on the basis of merit from across all of Scotland's communities and that employment practices promote and support a positive working environment.

23. The general public sector equality duty was introduced in the Equality Act 2010 and came into force on 5 April 2011. Under this general duty, the SFRS must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations. The SFRS is on the list of public authorities under the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012 and has to fulfil all the duties therein, demonstrating consideration of equality issues in all corporate decision making. The SFRS is also required to report performance against a set of equality outcomes, and also against the mainstreaming of equality across all functions and all levels of the organisation.

Strategic priorities

- The SFRS should demonstrate a mainstreamed approach to equality and diversity across all levels of the organisation and all functional areas.
- The SFRS must continue to ensure that the decision making processes, services, policies and practices take account of people's different needs and experiences

and meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012.

- The SFRS will take steps to develop the capacity of its workforce to meet its equality obligations at individual, team and corporate level.
- The SFRS must demonstrate that it considers equality issues through its decision making and internal scrutiny arrangements including demonstrating compliance with the Equality Impact Assessment duty.

Environmental responsibility

24. The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 sets out clear and ambitious targets for emissions reductions and other climate change provisions, including adaptation. The public sector has a crucial leadership role in the delivery of Scotland's climate change ambitions in respect of both mitigation and adaptation. In recognition of this, Part 4 of the Act (which came into force on 1 January 2011) places duties on public bodies, (those bodies defined as a Scottish public authority within the meaning of section 3(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, as amended) includes the SFRS.

25. These duties require that a public body must, in exercising its functions, act in the way best calculated to contribute to the delivery of emissions reduction targets, to help deliver any statutory climate change adaptation programme, and in a way that it considers is most sustainable.

26. Part 4 of the Act also requires the publication of guidance by Scottish Ministers to public bodies in relation to their climate change duties, and those bodies must have regard to the guidance.

27. Through the vision of a 'Greener' Scotland the Scottish Government is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through setting annual, interim and long term emission reduction targets. The SFRS has a duty to monitor and, where appropriate, reduce emissions. Waste management, carbon management and sustainability are all environmental issues that the SFRS will have to give consideration to, in order to demonstrate that it is an environmentally conscious organisation. Specific aspects that will require consideration are:

- ◆ Compliance with environmental legislation,
- ◆ Compliance with CRC (Carbon Reduction Commitments),
- ◆ Production of a Carbon Management Plan,
- ◆ Setting targets and achieving reductions in CO₂ emissions,
- ◆ Monitoring and reducing Fuel/Water consumption,
- ◆ Reducing waste production and waste going to landfill,
- ◆ Developing a sustainability strategy,
- ◆ Increased use of renewable energy.

Strategic priorities

- The SFRS should be an environmentally conscious and responsible organisation that complies with its statutory duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.
- The SFRS should develop ambitious waste management and carbon management strategies with sustainability embedded in its core policies and procedures.
- The SFRS must assess the environmental impact of its plans, programmes and policies, to minimise impacts where possible.

The aims of fire reform

28. The aims of reform are:

- ◆ to protect and improve local services, despite financial cuts, by stopping duplication and not cutting frontline outcomes
- ◆ create more equal access to specialist support services and national capacity – like flood rescue – where and when they are needed
- ◆ strengthen the connection between fire services and communities by creating a new formal relationship with all 32 local authorities, creating opportunities for many more locally elected members to have a formal say in fire and rescue services in their areas, and better integration with community planning partnerships.

29. The Scottish Government and representatives of fire and rescue services developed a high level 'blueprint' for the SFRS. The blueprint forms a crucial element in the three pronged programme approach to reform: blueprint; benefits map and profiles; and the suite of SFRS projects. There remain a number of challenges for the SFRS to drive forward business changes in order to realise the benefits of reform whilst meeting the financial challenges. It is important that the SFRS builds on this programme structure to continue to manage and deliver the complex changes of the reform programme.

30. The blueprint sets out the SFRS's high level Day 1 and Final State (2015/16) working practices and processes, the information it requires, and the technology that supports its operations. It supports the strategic priorities of this Framework and should continue to be used as a crucial programme tool to support the SFRS' change programme, and ultimately to realise the benefits of reform. It provides continuity of focus to retain the aims of reform at the heart of SFRS strategic priorities.

Framework structure

31. This Framework sets out the strategic priorities for the SFRS in four chapters covering the new governance and accountability landscape in which the SFRS will operate and the above three aims the SFRS should deliver. Benefits span all business areas, and must be taken into account at all levels of delivery from frontline operations to business support functions.

- ◆ Chapter 1 – the new governance and accountability landscape, including planning, reporting and performance management
- ◆ Chapter 2 – protecting and improving local services and reducing duplication
- ◆ Chapter 3 – more equal access to specialist support services and national capacity
- ◆ Chapter 4 – strengthening the connection with communities

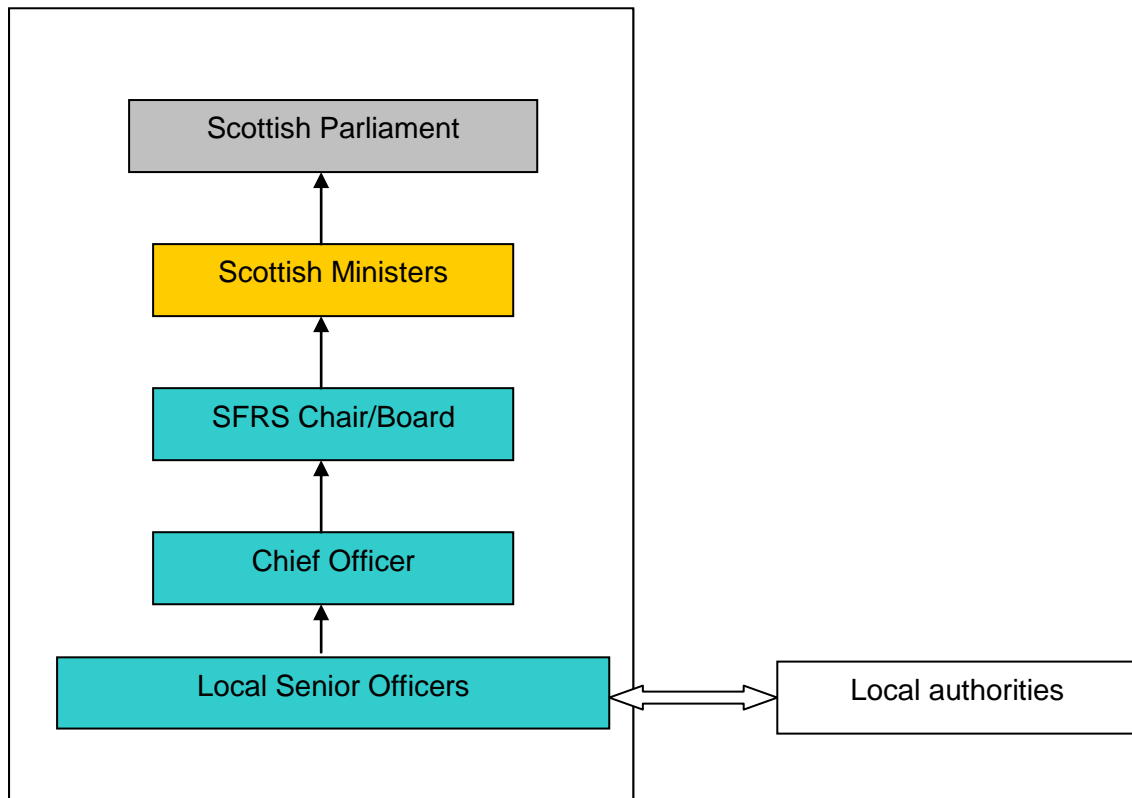
Timescales

32. Scottish Ministers will keep the terms of this Framework under regular review, and consider the need to produce a new Framework from time to time. At the date of coming into effect, it is anticipated that this Framework will see the SFRS achieve 'steady state' as a streamlined and high performing organisation. It is envisaged that future Fire and Rescue Frameworks will be tailored to meet the evolving needs of Scotland's diverse communities, setting out new priorities and ambitions for SFRS as it develops and adapts to meet new challenges.

CHAPTER 1: The New Landscape

Governance and accountability

33. The introduction of the new national body means a significant new relationship between the Scottish Government and the SFRS, as well as a new relationship between the SFRS and all 32 local authorities, with more opportunities for elected members to become involved. There is a clear accountability chain:



34. The **Fire and Rescue Framework** (this document) sets out Ministers' expectations and strategic priorities for the SFRS. It is a statutory document to which the SFRS must have regard, the requirements for which are set out at section 40 of the 2005 Act, as amended.

35. The **SFRS Strategic Plan** sets out how the SFRS will deliver against the priorities set out in the Fire & Rescue Framework and the outcomes against which this delivery can be measured. The 2012 Act requires that the SFRS Strategic Plan be prepared in consultation with representatives of local authorities, SFRS employees, and others SFRS considers appropriate. Building on this requirement, the SFRS should seek to embed stakeholder engagement in its strategic planning process, developing proposals in collaboration and partnership. The Strategic Plan covers a three year period, and can be reviewed at any time, but must be reviewed at least once within the three year period. The date for the first Strategic Plan is set by Order, and is expected to be 1 September 2013. If the Fire & Rescue Framework is revised, an automatic review of the Strategic Plan is triggered. Scottish Ministers approve the Strategic Plan. The SFRS will produce an **Annual Plan**, setting out its priorities for the coming year, in line with the direction set out in the Strategic Plan.

36. **Local Fire & Rescue Plans** flow, in turn, from the SFRS Strategic Plan, and also cover a three year period. They can be reviewed at any time but must be reviewed if there is a new Fire and Rescue Framework or Strategic Plan, or if they have not been revised within the three year period. Local Plans will set out local solutions to local issues and national priorities and detail local activity, linking to the performance management framework and demonstrating how they contribute to national priorities and key performance targets. Local Plans are to be approved by the Local Authority.

37. The formal relationship between the Scottish Government and the SFRS is set out in a **Governance and Accountability Framework Document**, based on the model contained in the Scottish Public Finance Manual. It sets out the key roles and responsibilities of Ministers, Scottish Government staff at senior level and within the SFRS sponsor team, the Chair, Board and Chief Officer. It covers performance and financial management arrangements, and details of financial delegations and controls. The governance framework document complements this Fire and Rescue Framework which covers aims, objectives and targets, and is kept under review.

38. Scottish Ministers will agree a funding settlement which will be paid directly to the SFRS following the Parliamentary budget process. This means that SFRS will be subject to a single system of financial control the same as that which applies to other public services established and funded by central government. The SFRS Board will hold the Chief Officer, as Accountable Officer, to account through the internal delegation of responsibilities for expenditure on fire and rescue services, and will be responsible for preparing annual accounts to be audited by the Auditor General. Scottish Ministers will arrange for a statement of accounts to be placed before the Scottish Parliament.

39. The Scottish Ministers are ultimately accountable to the Scottish Parliament for the activities of the SFRS and its use of resources, although Parliament may also question the SFRS (normally through the Chair, and Chief Officer in their capacity as Accountable Officer) over delivery of their objectives and propriety and stewardship of public funds. In addition, section 124 of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 requires the Scottish Parliament to make arrangements for keeping under review the operation of the Act.

40. An Annual Report will be produced by the SFRS each year, and laid before Parliament with the annual accounts. The report will detail progress made towards the delivery of the three year strategic plan and assess SFRS' performance in acting in accordance with the Framework.

41. Scottish Ministers shall hold the SFRS to account for performance against the Fire and Rescue Framework, Performance Management Framework and key performance targets, approving the SFRS Strategic Plan and the use of its allocated budget as set out in the SFRS Annual Plan, and described through the Governance and Accountability Framework.

42. The SFRS Board shall demonstrate clear leadership, and use the Performance Management Framework, Governance and Accountability Framework, and Best Value duties to hold the Chief Officer to account for operational performance and financial spend. Board members are required to act in accordance with principles of good governance, accountability and transparency. The SFRS also has statutory duties to provide public access to its proceedings, papers and reports but must provide a clear statement setting out the exceptions to this general principle. The Board should ensure that SFRS has a clear strategy for engagement with stakeholders and a commitment to partnership.

43. The SFRS will also be subject to a statutory duty of Best Value and subject to examination and inspection by the Auditor General and the Inspectors of the SFRS.

Performance Management and scrutiny

44. The fire and rescue services have a proven track record in performance management. It has been recognised that there is a need for further cohesion of performance management arrangements. The bringing together of eight services provides the opportunity to review data recording and reporting requirements and practices. High level outcome and input key performance indicators (KPIs) across a range of SFRS functions have been developed in partnership between the Scottish Government and services, and were first published as a dataset in February 2012, providing a useful baseline against which to benchmark performance during and after the reform process, and as a basis for measuring benefits realisation. These KPIs are set out at Annex A of this Framework.

Continuous improvement in performance

45. The Scottish Government's response to the Christie Commission, *Renewing Scotland's Public Services*, outlined that reform of public services needed to demonstrate a sharp focus on continuous improvement and the use of reliable improvement methods. The priorities set out in this Framework pave the way for a set of meaningful performance targets across the range of SFRS functions. The purpose of introducing targets is to support and encourage continuous improvement and realisation of the benefits of reform. They should be perceived as providing added value rather than as something which is punitive or an unnecessary burden.

46. Targets should be primarily designed to assess the organisation at national level to demonstrate success in delivering the Fire and Rescue Framework and the realisation of reform benefits, but should be open to adaptation at local level. This allows local delivery solutions for national priorities based on local risk profiles, and allows the SFRS to make performance comparisons between the various subsets of the organisation. There should not be an expectation that all targets would be applicable at local level or indeed within each Local Senior Officer command, given the diversity of Scotland's communities.

47. It is important that targets reflect, as far as possible, the range of activities carried out by the SFRS, without adding a data burden. Areas where Scottish Ministers consider performance should be stretched are:

- ◆ Reducing fire casualties, by 5% each year
- ◆ Reducing special services casualties
- ◆ Reducing accidental dwelling fires, by 10% each year
- ◆ Reducing the number of non-domestic fires
- ◆ Reducing firefighter injuries
- ◆ Reducing staff sick absence, by 10% each year

48. Scottish Ministers may, however, introduce a wider range of ambitious targets in due course, and are interested in exploring the following areas for potential future development:

- ◆ equality and diversity
- ◆ improving the availability of stations and appliances
- ◆ reducing unwanted fire alarm signals.

Performance reporting

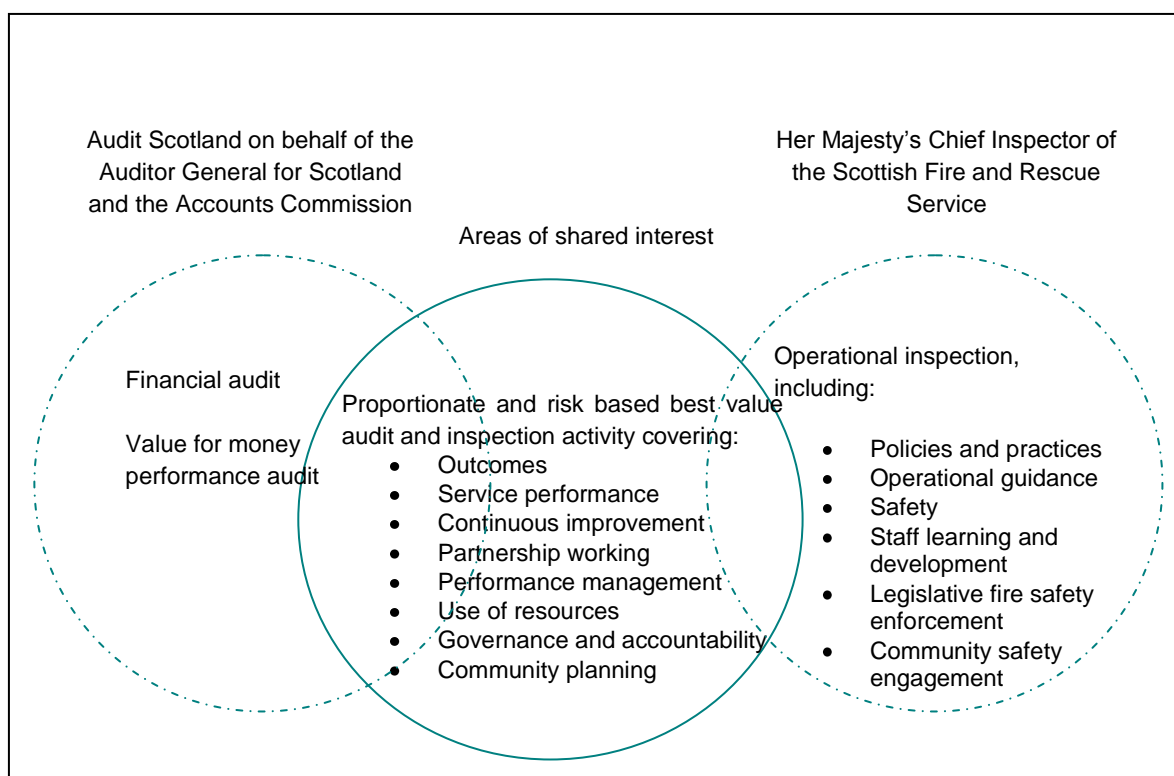
49. Arrangements for performance reporting will be set out in the Governance and Accountability Framework document.

Audit and inspection

50. The Act replaces the posts of Chief Inspector, Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors of Fire and Rescue Authorities with those of Chief Inspector, Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors of the Fire and Rescue Service (Inspectors of SFRS), respectively. The SFRS will be inspected by these Inspectors of the SFRS who may independently initiate inquiries as well as inspecting on direction by the Scottish Ministers.

51. The Act puts the relationship between the Inspectors of the SFRS and the Scottish Parliament on a clear footing by requiring the Inspectors of the SFRS to provide its reports to the Scottish Ministers, and, depending on the circumstances, make reports relating to the state and efficiency of the SFRS available to the Scottish Parliament either directly or through Scottish Ministers. The Inspectors of the SFRS are also required to present its reports to the SFRS.

52. SFRS is required to send statements of accounts to the Auditor General for audit. The Auditor General also has powers to examine the delivery of Best Value in addition to his powers to examine the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of the service under Section 23 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000. The Chief Inspector and the Auditor General have a duty to cooperate and are planning complementary and proportionate scrutiny activity based on the principles outlined in the diagram below.



Complaints

53. The SFRS is a listed authority for the purposes of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002. Hearing and investigating relevant complaints against the SFRS where a person alleges maladministration or service failure is a matter for the SPSO. Where the Chief Inspector is made aware of a complaint, the nature of which might suggest a general inquiry into the 'state and efficiency' of the SFRS or the way in which it is carrying out its functions may be appropriate, the Chief Inspector may decide to carry out such an inquiry.

Strategic priorities

- The SFRS should develop a comprehensive and detailed performance management framework, including a broad suite of indicators for use in robust internal scrutiny arrangements for both local and national delivery, with the high level KPIs at its core. It should ensure that data captured is consistent and quality assured, to facilitate both planning and reporting of local activity based around the varying risk profiles our communities experience.
- In the pursuit of continuous improvement the SFRS will evaluate the use of improvement methodologies, in liaison with the Improvement Service, to assess future benefits to be derived in terms of sector led improvement.
- Scrutiny arrangements must include effective assessment of the benefits realisation required against the aims of reform.

- The SFRS must detail and ensure efficient and effective systems are in place for the Chief Inspector of the SFRS and the Auditor General for Scotland to scrutinise and report on the SFRS.
- A memorandum of understanding should be developed between the SFRS and the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman which includes a description of how the SFRS provides information to the public on how to complain about services provided.

CHAPTER 2: Improved Service Outcomes and Protecting Frontline Services

54. The integration of the eight previous Fire and Rescue Service into the single service for Scotland provides the opportunity for the streamlining of policies and procedures across all areas of operational activity, identifying and rolling out best practice. The SFRS will provide greater resilience for the public, property, economy and environment by reducing harm from fires and other emergencies through improved outcomes, whilst achieving savings.

55. The SFRS will improve the use of public money, generating greater public satisfaction, by reducing costs through efficiently and effectively applying risk based management of resources and increased flexibility, whilst delivering savings. The SFRS will invest in the right skills and culture for staff to deliver high quality, value for money services in a positive environment for everyone.

Risk management

56. The SFRS has a statutory duty to reduce the risks to our communities whilst delivering best value; making certain that the communities we serve receive the best possible service, and at the same time, providing the greatest possible value for money. The management of risk in this context is about:

- ◆ identifying the risks to the community which fall within the scope of responsibility of the SFRS;
- ◆ undertaking a process to prioritise these risks; and
- ◆ ensuring the service has the appropriate blend and distribution of capabilities to address them.

57. In fulfilling its purpose, the SFRS must manage the risk to the community. In doing so it must first understand this risk through a robust national strategic assessment from which national priorities will be identified and plans to address them will be developed. From this will flow the development of appropriate local priorities and solutions which contribute to the delivery of national objectives.

58. The SFRS should use the three main areas of service delivery – prevention, protection and intervention – in a blended approach to provide the most appropriate solution to the identified priorities.

Strategic priorities

- Risk information should be effectively managed at a national level and co-ordinated through all community partners, encouraging appropriate information/data sharing and joint analytical work. The SFRS should continue to build upon existing arrangements that capture accurate and complete statistical information including that held by relevant partners, to provide a sound evidence base to underpin risk management.

- The national approach to risk management should be to prioritise and target resource based on identification and evaluation of community risk (in particular in vulnerable communities and/or individuals) and Best Value. This strategic management of risk will help develop a consistent approach to, and identify the correct balance between, prevention and response, to enable improved outcomes.
- The SFRS must ensure its approach recognises that the nature of risk can be transient and dynamic, and build flexibility into its approach to the risk management to respond to this.
- The SFRS should ensure it uses the learning outcomes from Fire Investigation (as set out in more detail in Chapter 3).
- The SFRS must articulate the relevant connections between local planning and its contribution towards national strategic risk management.

Prevention and protection

Community Safety

59. The SFRS has a statutory duty to promote fire safety under Part 2 (section 8) of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 to include provision of information and publicity aimed at preventing fire and reducing deaths and injuries, restricting fire spread and advising on means of escape from buildings. It also has a duty under section 16 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 to participate in the community planning process, which must be delegated to the Local Senior Officer to undertake in each local authority area. Fire prevention and protection activity over recent years has been key to reducing the number of fires, casualties and losses in Scotland thus minimising loss of life and the economic and social impact of fire on communities.

60. For the first time, the SFRS will bring together responsibility for both national campaigns previously run by the Scottish Government and local campaigns run by the previous eight services, and will continue to have balance the level of resources committed to providing publicity to allow people to reduce their own risk with more direct intervention such as home fire safety visits.

Fire safety in non-domestic buildings

61. The SFRS is responsible for enforcing the Chapter 1 fire safety duties in Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Fire Safety (Scotland) Regulations 2006, for the majority of relevant premises (as defined in section 78). The Service also enforces some other pieces of fire safety legislation. When carrying out enforcement, the SFRS should have regard to separate guidance issued by Scottish Ministers.

62. Enforcement activity includes carrying out fire safety audits of premises and providing advice and, when necessary, carrying out enforcement action. Fire safety enforcement activities should be informed by risk and thus targeted at those premises where the risk to life is greatest. The aim of enforcement is to offer support and check that employers and other duty holders are ensuring the safety of persons

in the event of fire. Whilst the main focus of fire safety promotion has up till now tended to be on activity to prevent dwelling fires and related casualties, a greater focus on *enabling* duty holders to comply with fire safety legislation along with enforcement lends itself to promotion and education activities being targeted also at the non-domestic sector.

Strategic priorities

Prevention

- The SFRS should build on the progress achieved in community fire safety activity through partnership working, and should take into account the specific and unique risks facing Scotland that are outwith its direct control. In particular, Local Senior Officers must ensure that there is a clear process for working with partners to identify the most vulnerable communities, and most vulnerable individuals within communities, to target activity where it is most needed.
- The SFRS should have a corporate public engagement and communications strategy to direct all education, information and advice provided to promote fire safety nationally and locally. The publicity strategy must focus resources, via appropriate channels, on continual performance improvement and be led by a risk-based methodology targeting business and local communities as appropriate, using the interventions evidenced to work best in practice. The SFRS should continue to engage with the SG to ensure linkages with other national campaigns and Ministerial interests.
- The public engagement and communications strategy should provide the basis for accessible and inclusive community safety interventions designed to meet the needs of Scotland's diverse communities.
- The SFRS should work with partners to formulate a communications strategy for safety advice in relation to areas of specialist rescue. This provides the opportunity to ensure proper integrated public safety campaigns for relevant areas of activity.

Protection

- The SFRS should have resources and procedures to meet its legislative fire safety enforcement responsibilities including those under chapter 1 fire safety duties in part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 (as amended) and the Fire Safety (Scotland) Regulations 2006.
- The SFRS should produce a risk based strategy for 'enabling compliance and enforcement' which ensures a consistent and risk proportionate approach to fire safety legislation, promoting economic growth in Scotland. The service should do this through partnership work and engagement with stakeholders including the business sector.

Evaluation

- Effective, transparent and robust evaluation, which identifies and shares best practice, must underpin all prevention and protection activities in order to demonstrate public value. The SFRS should set out clear guidelines for how and when the results of such evaluations will be made public.

Response and resilience

63. The SFRS has a statutory duty under Part 2 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 to respond to fires, road traffic accidents and a power to respond to other events and situations. Similarly, the Fire (Additional Function) (Scotland) Order 2005 sets out other situations or events that the SFRS has a statutory duty to respond to, including: chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) incidents; serious transport incidents; serious flooding; and search and rescue.

64. The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 requires the SFRS to work with the other emergency services and responders in producing comprehensive plans for major and catastrophic incidents. This includes emergency planning and response to widespread threats and incidents involving, for example, terrorism and environmental disasters. The SFRS, working with the Scottish Government and other responders, makes a key contribution to a multi-agency national capability to respond to a CBRN attack in Scotland, through the provision of specialist equipment, appropriate training, mutual aid arrangements and ongoing collaboration with other emergency responders. In addition, the SFRS plays a key role in the protection and resilience of both Scottish and UK critical infrastructure assets including critical SFRS assets.

Strategic priorities

- The SFRS must establish and maintain close links with other agencies to ensure that responders are provided with appropriate, relevant and timely risk information, to ensure community and firefighter safety.
- The SFRS must support effective multi-agency emergency planning and response by contributing fully to the work of Strategic Co-ordinating Groups in assessing risk, preparing and planning for, responding to and recovering from major and catastrophic incidents.
- The SFRS must plan its operational response in a way which reflects national and local risk across Scotland and the UK and in doing so ensure that its arrangements for operational command are designed in the simplest possible form.
- When planning and managing a response to foreseeable risks in the community, the SFRS should seek to develop a shared understanding with both local and national partners of their relative roles, responsibilities and capabilities, to ensure that when emergencies do occur, they are responded to and concluded as effectively and efficiently as possible, and in an interoperable manner.

- The SFRS must ensure that arrangements are in place so that communities can access fire and rescue services, through a robust and resilient command, control and communications provision.
- The SFRS will continue to identify, advise on and respond to emerging and established risks, keeping its capability under review with reference to the National Risk assessment and other relevant sources.
- The SFRS should develop an appropriate mechanism for the provision of strategic assurance to Government that agreed capabilities and interoperability arrangements are in place and fit for purpose.
- The SFRS must establish and maintain close links with relevant critical infrastructure stakeholders to ensure that Scotland's critical fire assets are protected and resilient.

The workforce

65. The Scottish Government's public service reform agenda recognises the importance of an expert and committed workforce. The most valuable asset of the SFRS is its workforce and, through its leaders and employees, the SFRS has a direct responsibility to the people of Scotland for the delivery of a modern, fit-for-purpose fire and rescue service. A highly skilled workforce is an essential component of a well developed modern public service and crucial to deliver the aims of reform and the outcomes outlined in the blueprint.

66. The SFRS also has a responsibility to its employees, when delivering on this promise to our communities, that it complies fully with the requirements of employment legislation and builds a brand which is widely regarded as an employer of choice.

67. Learning and development (L&D) plays a critical role in enabling the Service to meet both its statutory obligations and duty of care to the workforce through investment in the development of the capabilities, competencies and skills requirement to support sustainable and continuously improving public services. Services across Scotland have worked to continuously improve and build on a national strategic approach to learning and development since the publication of the first national L&D strategy in 2003. Although the commitment to learning and development has remained consistent, the breadth, methods and understanding of both L&D and the environment within which the sector operates have evolved significantly.

68. For reform to be successful, as well as harmonisation and consolidation of existing good practice in new structures and working practices, the people and cultural issues surrounding the changes must be addressed.

Strategic priorities:

- The SFRS should develop an innovative structure that enables high value and effective services while delivering all necessary efficiencies.
- The SFRS should demonstrate progress on meeting the obligations set out in the Equality Act 2010 and the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012.
- To deliver a highly skilled and motivated workforce, the SFRS should develop an integrated suite of people strategies, policies and procedures which align individual contributions with the SFRS vision, values, strategic objectives and Strategic Plan.
- The SFRS should seek to foster harmonious industrial relations with all representative bodies.
- A SFRS workforce strategy should be developed, which:
 - captures the diverse range of staff (full-time, retained duty system (RDS), volunteer and non-uniformed) involved in delivering the business
 - considers sustainability of current systems
 - builds leadership and management capacity, embeds Service values and supports the provision of open and transparent governance arrangements;
 - supports the delivery of a suitable response capability taking into account the local risks and needs of rural and island communities and
 - specifically articulates a new vision for the future of service delivery in remote and rural areas.
- The SFRS should ensure effective business continuity arrangements are in place which maintain service delivery at all times.
- An effective pay and conditions negotiating framework is required, which allows negotiations to complement the broad principles of the Scottish Government's Public Sector Pay Policy.
- The SFRS should consider the most efficient and cost effective way of administering and managing pay and pensions for uniformed officers and support staff post April 2013, taking into account the likely impacts of the proposed Public Sector Pension Reforms due for implementation in April 2015.
- The SFRS should secure arrangements for promoting and ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of all staff, ensuring that a collaborative approach to participation and involvement of employees and their representatives is undertaken when identifying, resolving and improving policy and related practice.
- The SFRS is expected to demonstrate ongoing commitment to strategically driven, high quality L&D, designed to integrate seamlessly with other workforce management strategies.

- The SFRS shall behave as a learning organisation. It will ensure:
 - effective knowledge management arrangements are in place to learn from opportunities, enabling all employees to contribute, with the aim of improving standards of service delivery and across other areas of the SFRS (including learning points and innovation from operational incidents); and
 - that these arrangements are sufficiently robust to ensure that, where appropriate, they challenge or affect existing policies or procedures, as well as feeding future policy development, thus ensuring an organisation that is fit-for-purpose and continuously improving.
- The SFRS should develop and maintain the competence of all staff through ensuring a comprehensive L&D strategy is in place, with appropriate supporting strategies and implementation plans balancing operational, emergency response and resilience requirements with the prevention and community protection agenda, and the development of leadership, management and corporate skills capabilities.
- The L&D strategy should also:
 - support transition to the SFRS, the effective management of change and reform, and the delivery of public value;
 - support interoperability between UK Services and between the SFRS and partner organisations through the collaborative development and alignment of learning frameworks and the creation of opportunities for joint learning and development of partnership working skills.
- The Scottish Fire Services College of the future should be a centre for excellence in L&D strategic development and implementation; knowledge management; L&D development and delivery; assessment of competency and standard setting; and quality assurance and e-systems.

CHAPTER 3: More Equal Access to Specialist Resources and National Capacity

69. In addition to the statutory duties set out in Chapter 2, section 13 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 enables the SFRS to respond to other eventualities where there is a threat to life or the environment (for example incidents involving rope and water rescue). The SFRS should continue to work in partnership with the Scottish Government and other key stakeholders to ensure that national arrangements for the continued response to fires and other emergencies as set out above is coordinated nationally and delivers locally to meet the needs and expectations of the communities of Scotland. The rigorous application of risk management, as set out in Chapter 2, will identify opportunities to create more equal access to specialist resource and national capacity.

70. The fire and rescue services have exercised their discretionary function under section 13 of the 2005 Act to provide a wide range of humanitarian services to their communities. These range from rescuing persons trapped in lifts, providing support to the ambulance service in the transport of bariatric patients and assisting the NHS with the removal or detachment of objects from patients, to animal rescues and making safe buildings or structures. Scottish firefighters also have a long and proud tradition of contributing to rescues internationally through the relevant United Nations arrangements.

71. The SFRS has a highly-trained workforce with specialist skills and equipment, which might be reasonably adapted to deal with unusual and hard to define situations. Nothing in this Framework should be read as seeking to limit the Service's contribution to the communities it serves. The SFRS has the discretion to act, beyond its core functions, to respond to those events it considers appropriate because of a risk of harm to individuals or the environment. It is therefore vital that the SFRS's partners both locally and nationally, and those in our communities, know when and how the SFRS can be called on to assist in tasks of this nature.

Strategic priorities

- The SFRS must clarify and communicate the parameters of its operational functions, whilst explicitly recognising the need to adapt and improvise in unusual and difficult to define circumstances. All of this should fall within the scope of the community risk planning which the SFRS undertakes. In doing so the service should take other reforms into account.
- When considering the risk management priorities set out in Chapter 2, the SFRS should aim to create more equal access to national capacity, which an expectation that areas with similar risk profiles should normally have similar provision.
- The SFRS should actively develop a role as a champion and coordinator of specialist rescue. The SFRS should engage with the other emergency services and relevant voluntary groups to understand and manage the risk across Scotland, and, in doing so, create more equal access to specialist support based on community risk.

- The SFRS should consider a national register of assets to cover areas of specialist rescue, setting out the criteria for their registration, such as availability, procedures, equipment and training.
- Through its involvement in multi-agency risk assessment, emergency planning and response (through the Strategic Co-ordinating Groups) the SFRS should ensure that its resources and capabilities are used, where possible, to help prevent and to respond to and recover from emergencies and major incidents, as effectively as possible. These incidents could be unpredictable, novel and could result from a wide range of causes including CBRN, terrorist activity and the effects of climate change. Further details on risk and resilience can be found in Chapter 2 of the framework.

Fire Investigation

72. The SFRS has specific powers in relation to investigating fires. These powers are detailed in Section 29 (Powers of authorised employees in relation to investigating fires) of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005, as amended. These powers allow authorised employees of SFRS to enter premises where there has been a fire so as to investigate what caused it and why it progressed as it did. Authorised employees can also remove documents, samples and articles for the purpose of investigation.

73. The investigation of fires affords the SFRS the opportunity to gather information in relation to their cause and development. The SFRS should make full use of this opportunity so that the information gathered by fire investigation can be used to enhance community and firefighter safety. This information can either be combined or used on a case-by-case basis to influence Community Safety Engagement initiatives. Where investigations are undertaken at non-domestic premises the intelligence gathered can be used to inform Fire Safety Enforcement strategies. The outcomes of investigations can also be used to provide important safety information to firefighters in respect of the behaviour of fire and its interaction with building materials.

74. The SFRS also has an important role to play in the investigation of fires that are suspected to be deliberate in nature. Where this is the case the investigation lead will fall to the Police, directed by the Procurator Fiscal. Although the Police lead in such circumstances, the SFRS contribute to joint investigations that are undertaken. To support this, the SFRS should ensure that appropriate protocols are developed with the Police for such joint working.

75. Fire investigation has an important role to play internally in SFRS and in support of the criminal justice system. To acknowledge this importance SFRS must ensure an appropriate and consistent approach to providing fire investigation across Scotland.

Strategic Priorities

- In order to improve prevention and protection and fire-fighter safety outcomes, the SFRS must ensure an appropriate and consistent approach to providing risk based fire investigation across Scotland for different categories of incident.
- The SFRS must continue to develop effective links with relevant elements of the criminal justice system. Fire Investigation and Incident research, including incident study and multi agency case conferences, must contribute to the SFRS as a learning organisation by informing enforcement and engagement initiatives and identifying emerging trends in other areas.

CHAPTER 4: Strengthened connection between the SFRS and communities

76. The connection between the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and communities shall be strengthened by creating a new formal relationship with all 32 local authorities, providing opportunities for many more locally elected members to become involved and offering better integration with community planning partnerships. This will serve to support the designing and delivering of excellent services which meet and are more responsive to the needs of local people and underpin more meaningful engagement with community issues.

77. Within the national governance structures for the SFRS, the 2012 Act ensures an enhanced focus on local delivery of fire and rescue functions. The SFRS is under a statutory duty to ensure adequate arrangements for fire and rescue services in all 32 of Scotland's local authority areas. The SFRS strategic plan should set out how the service intends to discharge this function, demonstrating that its operational arrangements for each area will be adequate and proportionate to the local risk profile.

78. After consulting with the relevant local authority, the Chief Officer must designate a Local Senior Officer for each local authority area, who will be accountable for local service delivery through the Chief Officer to the SFRS board. The Local Senior Officer is a new statutory role for a designated employee of SFRS, to whom the key local functions of the SFRS are to be delegated. In order to discharge those functions effectively and provide leadership locally, the Local Senior Officer must have sufficient delegated authority and the requisite skills and training. They will be the main point of contact and lead partner, representing the SFRS in local partnerships and submitting to local authority scrutiny. It is incumbent upon the Chief Officer to ensure that the officers designated to carry out this role are adequately equipped, supported and empowered to do so.

Role for local government at national and local level

79. Scottish Ministers have a statutory duty to consult local authority representative bodies when preparing the Fire and Rescue Framework (this document). Local authorities will therefore have the right to have a say in the national strategic direction of the new services. In addition, the SFRS has a statutory duty to consult such representative bodies and all local authorities on their Strategic Plan. Building on these legislative requirements, the SFRS should develop an engagement strategy which sets out how it proposes to work in partnership with local authorities, engaging with them and their representative bodies in its planning and across the range of its functions, to identify and deliver/improve shared outcomes for communities across Scotland.

80. For the first time, each local authority in Scotland will directly influence the delivery of fire and rescue functions in their areas. The Local Senior Officer has a statutory duty to work with the local authority to set priorities and objectives for fire and rescue services in the local area, and is required to prepare the local plan for fire

and rescue, that meets the needs of the local area for approval by the local authority. The SFRS engagement strategy should set out its corporate expectations and clear guidelines for Local Senior Officers to support them in working with their respective local authorities.

81. Partnership and engagement are central to this relationship, as is local democratic scrutiny. The local authority has statutory powers to monitor the delivery of fire and rescue functions in the area, and to provide feedback to the Local Senior Officer and make recommendations for improvements. It is for each local authority to determine how to structure its engagement with and scrutiny of Local Senior Officers, but within that flexible framework, the SFRS should provide guidance to its staff on the legislative parameters that underpin that relationship, as well as its own policies and procedures for dealing with any issues arising. While emphasising and fostering positive local partnership working, SFRS guidance should provide clarity on the accountability of Local Senior Officers as employees through the Chief Officer to the SFRS board.

82. The Local Senior Officer is also required to provide such information and reports, relating to the carrying out of its functions, as the local authority may reasonably request. The SFRS should set out how it intends to meet these demands and ensure that Local Senior Officers are adequately supported, in order to respond to such requests and work with local authorities and their representative bodies to agree a shared understanding of what would constitute a “reasonable request”.

Integration with Community Planning Partnerships

83. The 2012 Act also ensures that the structures for local delivery of fire and rescue functions are better integrated with Community Planning. The SFRS has statutory duties in relation to Community Planning, which must be *delegated* to Local Senior Officers, who will be the key partner in Community Planning at local authority level; but, as with all functions, these duties are placed on the SFRS corporately. The SFRS board and the Chief Officer will provide national leadership and oversight of SFRS participation in community planning across Scotland, as Community Planning is taken forward in line with the Scottish Government and CoSLA’s [Statement of Ambition](#)² arising from the Review of Community Planning.

84. There is a statutory requirement on the Local Senior Officer to include information on Community Planning in the local fire and rescue plan, specifically to set out how it will contribute to outcomes identified through Community Planning. Building on this requirement, local fire and rescue plans should tie in to existing local planning arrangements, clearly demonstrating how the local SFRS priorities will link to the priorities, outcomes and approaches expressed in single outcome agreements.

² <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/local-government/CP/soa>

Local fire and rescue plans

85. The Local Senior Officer has a statutory duty to prepare a fire and rescue plan for the local authority area. The local plan is first and foremost an SFRS plan and must have regard to this Framework and the national priorities set out in the SFRS Strategic Plan. The legislation requires that it be prepared in consultation with the staff representatives and other interested parties, which could include other community planning partners, as well as local communities themselves. In preparing its engagement strategy, the SFRS should seek to identify and promote models of best practice in community engagement, ensuring that local partnership working is not regarded as an end in itself, but is connected to and driven by the communities it serves.

86. Drawing on national priorities set out in the SFRS Strategic Plan, the local fire and rescue plan must include priorities and objectives, developed with the local authority, and set out the proposed local arrangements for delivery of those priorities and objectives. It will identify outcomes against which the achievement of priorities and objectives may be measured (where practicable), and make clear how the arrangements for local service delivery will contribute to the outcomes identified through community planning. It may also include such other matters relating to the carrying out of SFRS functions as the service considers appropriate. This provides scope for local plans to go beyond the broad parameters set out in legislation and the SFRS engagement strategy should explore this, setting out a clear vision for local planning, to strengthen the existing bonds with local communities.

87. The Local Senior Officer is required to submit the local fire and rescue plan to the local authority for approval. The SFRS engagement strategy should set out broad expectations that Local Senior Officers will work closely with local authorities and other relevant partners on the development of local plans, with a view to producing documents which embody a joint approach to local service design, with shared outcomes and, thus, to which local authorities can provide approval. The SFRS should also develop and publish policies and procedures for dealing with any unresolved issues and work in partnership with local authorities to seek their swift resolution, whilst ensuring that local service delivery is maintained.

Strategic priorities

- The SFRS Strategic Plan should set out how its operational arrangements for each area will be adequate and proportionate to the local risk profile, to ensure the appropriate targeting of resources to deliver strategic outcomes for the SFRS and key partners.
- The SFRS board and Chief Officer will provide national leadership and oversight of SFRS participation in community planning across Scotland, as it is taken forward in line with the Scottish Government and CoSLA's [Statement of Ambition](#) arising from the Review of Community Planning.

- Building on legislative requirements for local scrutiny and community planning, the SFRS should develop an engagement strategy which should:
 - set out a clear vision for partnership-working with local authorities, community planning partners and others, to identify and improve shared outcomes for communities across Scotland;
 - demonstrate how it will embed local service planning and delivery into community planning arrangements, ensuring that local fire and rescue plans tie in to single outcome agreements;
 - set out its corporate expectations and clear guidelines for Local Senior Officers, detailing policies and arrangements for responding to Local Authority requests for reports and information;
 - provide a clear route of access and procedures for local authorities to engage with the SFRS at a national level;
 - clarify the interaction between national and local priority setting and establish corporate policies for dealing with issues arising from the development of local fire and rescue plans.

- The SFRS and, specifically, its Chief Officer should ensure that Local Senior Officers are adequately equipped, supported and empowered to fulfil their statutory duties and build productive relationships with local authorities and others, describing how they will work with partners using the lessons from the Pathfinder Projects to prepare their Local Plans, based on the SFRS Strategic Plan.

Table of Performance Indicators

Primary indicators demonstrate outcomes, while secondary indicators tell more about the inputs by the SFRS.

PRIMARY INDICATORS	
Indicator	Purpose
Fires	
1. Deliberate – all (per 10,000 population)	<p>The rate of fires per head of population allows comparison across Scotland.</p> <p>Deliberate fire rates provide an indication of the degree of deliberate fire setting, what type it is and where it occurs. They can provide an indication of the success of engagement strategies or other risk reduction activities. The sub-division of fire types can be used to identify, on a national basis, the relative size of the problem in an area.</p>
a. All fires	
b. Primary fires	
i. Dwelling fires	
ii. Other building fires	
iii. Vehicle fires	
iv. Other primary fires	
c. Secondary fires	
i. Refuse	
ii. Other	
2. Accidental – all (per 10,000 population)	<p>The rate of fires per head of population allows comparison across Scotland.</p> <p>Accidental fire rates provide an indication of the success of CFS and risk reduction campaigns. The sub-division of fire types can be used to identify, on a national basis, the relative size of the problem in an area.</p>
a. All fires	
b. Primary fires	
i. Dwelling fires	
ii. Other building fires	
iii. Vehicle fires	
iv. Other primary fires	
c. Secondary fires	
i. Refuse	
ii. Other	
3. Fire Casualties – all per million population	<p>Fire casualty rates provide an indication of the amount of serious, life-threatening fires. This can indicate not only the success of SFRS in reducing the number of life risk fires through CFS and similar activities, but also their success in the response activity in saving lives. Fire fatalities per head of population are shown in the suite of indicators, though there are thankfully relatively few of these and so they are too volatile to be a reliable measure on their own.</p>
a. All fires	
i. Fatal	
ii. Nonfatal	
Non fatal casualties including precautionary checks	
Non fatal casualties excluding precautionary checks	

PRIMARY INDICATORS	
Indicator	Purpose
b. Accidental dwelling fires	
i. Fatal	
ii. Non-fatal	
Non fatal casualties including precautionary checks	
Non fatal casualties excluding precautionary checks	
4. Non-domestic Fires	The rate of fires per building, coupled with the average fire size, give an indication of the success of protection (fire safety) activity in both reducing the number of fires, and also in restricting fire growth through regulation of measures such as compartmentation.
a. Number of fires in other buildings (all occupancy types) per other building	
b. Average (median) fire size in other buildings fires	

5. Special services	This shows the size and type of special service risk and activity.
All Special service incidents attended (per 10,000 population)	
a. RTCs	
b. Flooding	
c. Extrication	
d. All others	
6. All RTCs attended by the SFRS per 100 km	This shows the size of RTC risk, plus RTC incident outcomes which provide an indication of the success of response activities. While much of the RTC risk is outwith SFRS control, the response to RTCs is an important part of SFRS activity, representing a large proportion of life risk incidents attended by services. The rate of casualties per incident provides an indication of the success of response activities at rescuing people from RTCs. Although RTC fatalities per incident are shown in the suite of indicators, there are thankfully relatively few of these and so they are too volatile to be a reliable measure on their own.
a. Casualties per incident	
b. Fatalities per incident	

SECONDARY INDICATORS	
Indicator	Purpose
<p>7. Health and Safety –</p> <p>a. Incidents where there was an attack on a firefighter(s) i.e. Number of reported incidents where there was an attack (verbal or physical) reported in IRS as a percentage of the number of incidents</p> <p>b. Injury rate. Number of RIDDOR reportable injuries reported by the same categories as the workforce records, divided by FRS workforce in each category.</p>	<p>Provides an element of corporate management monitoring. As with other data, an existing definition has been used, in this case injuries are RIDDOR reportable injuries as defined by HSE and Violence to staff is taken from IRS reports, although IRS only includes attacks on operational crews at an incident and the number of incidents is reported not the number of staff attacked.</p>
<p>8. Fire safety audits</p> <p>a. Rate of audits per 1,000 other buildings</p> <p>b. Proportion of audits conducted in FSEC high or very high risk premises</p> <p>c. Hours per audit</p>	
<p>9. CFS Activity– rate per 1,000 households</p> <p>a. Home Fire Safety Visits</p> <p>i. Full visit including advice and smoke alarm installation</p> <p>ii. HFSV – advice only</p> <p>iii. Leaflet drop</p> <p>b. Rate of HFSV conducted per 1,000 households in FSEC high or very high risk dwelling fire risk areas</p> <p>c. Percentage where the referral came from another agency</p>	<p>Shows the SFRS input into prevention activities. The targetting of CFS towards higher risk households is also monitored, FSEC risk levels are used for this purpose as a consistent and accepted risk measure.</p>
<p>10. False alarms – as a percentage of all incidents attended</p> <p>a. All false alarms</p> <p>b. False alarm – good intent</p> <p>c. False alarms - malicious</p> <p>d. False alarm – equipment failure</p>	

SECONDARY INDICATORS	
Indicator	Purpose
11. Work force Monitoring	Provides an element of corporate management monitoring.
a. Percentage of gender within each type of staffing	
b. Percentage of ethnic minority staff within each type of staffing	
c. Percentage of staff recorded as disabled within each type of staffing	
12. SFRS Costs	Provides an element of financial management monitoring.
a. Cost per head of population	
b. Cost per hectare	

Targets
Fire casualties
Reduce the rate of fire fatalities and casualties (excluding precautionary checks) per million population by 5% a year based on the previous 3 year rolling average
Special services
Based on a 3 year rolling average, reduce the rate of casualties and fatalities per million population, each year. Special services to be included <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ RTC, ◆ Other Transport incident, ◆ Flooding, ◆ Rescue or evacuation from water, ◆ Other rescue/release of persons
Accidental dwelling fires
Comparing a three year rolling average against the previous three-year average, reduce the rate of accidental dwelling fires per 1,000 households by 10% each year. Support the target with a measure of 'life risk accidental dwelling fires' – i.e. accidental dwelling fires where there was a casualty or fatality to show how the SFRS impacts the fires that matter.
Non-domestic fires
Reduce the rate of non-domestic fires per 1,000 other buildings from the previous year. [Aim to develop this target on the basis of the economic cost of fire work that is starting in autumn 2012. Also, aim to develop the rate of fires to be based on a 3 year rolling average, as the data becomes available]
Firefighter Safety and Attendance Management
Reduce the rate of injuries per staff member (headcount, including volunteers) each year Staff sickness – reduce the rate of sickness per staff member by 10% each year.



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ISBN: 978-1-78256-242-9 (web only)

The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Produced for the Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland
DPPAS13636 (11/12)

Published by the Scottish Government, November 2012



Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013 – Consultation

RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please Note this form **must** be returned with your response to ensure that we handle your response appropriately

1. Name/Organisation

Organisation Name

Perth and Kinross Council

Title Mr Ms Mrs Miss Dr **Please tick as appropriate**

Surname

Irons

Forename

John

2. Postal Address

St Martins House

King Edward Street

Perth

Postcode PH15UT

Phone 01738 472569

Email jmiron@pkc.gov.uk

3. Permissions - I am responding as...

Individual

/

Group/Organisation

Please tick as appropriate

- (a) Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site)?

Please tick as appropriate

Yes No

- (b) Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your responses available to the public on the following basis

Please tick ONE of the following boxes

- (c) The name and address of your organisation **will be** made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site).

Are you content for your **response** to be made available?

Please tick as appropriate

Yes No

Yes, make my response, name and address all available

or

Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address

or

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

(d) We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Please tick as appropriate

Yes

No

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

1. Do you agree with the strategic priorities set out in the Introduction to the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013 in relation to **partnership working, equality and diversity, and environmental responsibility**?

Yes No

Partnership working – there should be a direct reference to the Fire and Rescue’s role within Community Planning Partnerships in sections 15-18 to emphasise this earlier in the document.

2. Do you agree with the strategic priorities set out in Chapter 1 of the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013 in relation to the **new landscape**?

Yes No

Strategic priorities (P15) bullet number 4 may benefit from the inclusion of a requirement to reduce duplication in audit processes.

3. Do you agree with the strategic priorities set out in Chapter 2 of the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013, in relation to **Risk Management**?

Yes No

We welcome the emphasis on joint working with partners to gather relevant information.

4. Do you agree with the strategic priorities set out in Chapter 2 of the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013, in relation to **Prevention and Protection**?

Yes No

Prevention – duplication across 3 of the priorities, relating to engagement and communications, would benefit from review. We welcome the continued emphasis on partnership working at the local level.

5. Do you agree with the strategic priorities set out in Chapter 2 of the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013, in relation to **Response and Resilience**?

Again the emphasis on joint working is to be welcomed.

6. Do you agree with the strategic priorities set out in Chapter 2 of the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013, in relation to **the Workforce**?

Yes No

7. Do you agree with the strategic priorities set out in Chapter 3 of the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013, in relation to **more equal access to specialist resources and national capacity**?

Yes No

This would appear to be a sensible suggestion. It is important that partners and communities are aware of the additional help that the Fire and Rescue service can deliver

8. Do you agree with the strategic priorities set out in Chapter 4 of the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013, in relation to **strengthened connection between the SFRS and communities**?

Yes No

The emphasis on the important role of the Local Senior Officer is to be welcomed. Likewise the importance placed on engagement with the local authority and community planning partnership.
It may be useful to include a statement that local structures should be developed/implemented which supports improved engagement with communities at a local level.