

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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| COMMITTEE | Communities, Housing & Infrastructure Committee |
| DATE | 19 May 2015 |
| LEAD OFFICER | Chief Executive |
| TITLE OF REPORT | Aberdeen City Local Fire and Rescue Plan Review |

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report brings before the Committee a summary review of the current Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Aberdeen City

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- i. provides feedback to the Local Senior Officer on this summary review

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate financial implications for the Council to this report.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The discharging of the Council's responsibilities in relation to the Act is of direct relevance to the delivery of the Council's responsibilities in relation to Community Planning, the Single Outcome Agreement and the Business Plan.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

The latest Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Aberdeen City Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17 was approved at a meeting of the Full Council on 14th May 2014.

This local plan is a statutory requirement under the auspices of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 and sets out the fire and rescue priorities from 2014-17.

The priorities have a significant focus on reducing risk in local communities by conducting preventative and protection activities with a strong link to local partnership working.

Under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 there is no statutory requirement to conduct an annual review of Local Fire and Rescue Plans.

The SFRS however believe it was helpful to carry out a 'light touch' review to ensure the current priorities remain relevant and/or to identify if any emerging issues over the previous 12 months suggested a need to modify the current plan.

The current Local Plan outlines 6 key priorities for the SFRS. These are:

- Local Risk Management and Preparedness
- Reduction in Accidental Dwelling Fires
- Reduction in Fire Casualties and Fatalities
- Reduction in Deliberate Fires
- Reduction in Non Domestic and Secondary Fires
- Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Summary of Review

Over the past 12 months we have continued to deliver a longer term reduction in overall fires.

Whilst we welcome this positive direction it has been noted that the rate at which fires have been reducing can vary across differing incident types (We would highlight that in some categories of fires reported we currently are operating at extremely low baseline levels).

Some emerging information also seems to suggest that when fires are occurring, particularly within dwelling houses, the impact and severity of such fires appear to be lessening.

We intend to try and analyse this in more detail in the future but it does currently seem to suggest that increased ownership of working smoke alarms may be positively contributing in this area.

The current plan focuses on reducing risk of specific incident types and over the last 12 months there have been no emerging trends in other types of incidents that we believe required wider intervention.

The Home and Fire Safety Theme Group has now been established as a working sub-group of the Aberdeen Community Safety Partnership.

This group was established as a result of the last strategic assessment of community safety in Aberdeen and is now starting to develop local initiatives and identify innovative opportunities to strengthen the partnership approach to reducing the risk of harm.

We have also continued to develop our operational capability and have ensured that our firefighters are able to apply all procedures and processes to ensure a safe and successful outcome at operational incidents.

Over the last 12 months this has included applying new harmonised operational policies and procedures which ensure a consistent and quality assured level of performance is delivered across the whole of Scotland.

Influencing Factors

This review also considered the following wider factors:

- Refresh of Aberdeen CPP Single Outcome Agreement

The SFRS are contributing and playing a full part within local Community Planning on the content of our Single Outcome Agreement.

This work is on-going and is anticipated to take several months.

- Emerging issues from HMFSI inspection of Aberdeen City

Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate (Scotland) have recently completed a 'place-based' inspection of local SFRS activities and arrangements in Aberdeen City.

This was a wide ranging inspection covering all areas of the SFRS work in Aberdeen City including reference to the current Local Plan.

The outcomes from the inspection are due to be published shortly.

- Engagement and consultation of SFRS Strategic Plan 2016-19

The SFRS are about to enter into a significant national engagement process across the country as it prepares the development of its next Strategic Plan.

This engagement is due to commence in early summer of 2015 with subsequent consultation taking place at an appropriate time after the draft version of the Plan has been developed.

It does therefore suggest it would be prudent not to make any amendments to the Local Plan until the information emerging from the above factors are known and can be carefully considered.

Conclusions

It has been concluded that the current Aberdeen City Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17 continues to currently focus priorities within areas that have the potential to deliver a positive impact to local communities.

It retains a sufficient scope and range of intended actions that allows the Service to utilise local, regional and national resources as necessary to seek to achieve improved outcomes.

There is therefore no intention at this time to amend the current Aberdeen City Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17.

6. IMPACT

As noted above, the subject matter of this report is relevant to the Council's work in relation to Community Planning, the Single Outcome Agreement and the delivery of the Business Plan.

The subject matter of the report will be of interest to the public.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Area Manager Duncan Smith – Local Senior Officer
Aberdeen City
Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
duncan.smith@firescotland.gov.uk
01224 788792

Ciaran Monaghan
Head of Service, Office of Chief Executive
cmonaghan@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224 522293