

#### **S41. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – FALKIRK & WEST LOTHIAN COMMAND PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services presenting four attached reports by the Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service on (1) the Falkirk Area Performance Report covering Quarter 2 2013/14; (2) the Fire Related Risks Posed by Smoking and Smoking Materials; (3) the Strategic Plan 2013-2016, and (4) the Activity within the Falkirk Area during the 2013 Bonfire/Firework Period.

##### **(1) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Falkirk Area, Quarter 2 2013/14, Performance Report**

Local Senior Officers were now required, in terms of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, to report on performance as measured against the Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2013.

The second local performance report presented the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (Falkirk Area) performance report for 1 July to 30 September 2013 (Quarter 2) against 5 key objectives.

Mr Laing provided detail of the performance report and this was followed by requests by Members for clarification on matters including:-

- the national and local trends and comparisons with previous years;
- the nature of the joint working arrangements between agencies;
- the effect of the weather on the number of outdoor fires;
- the range of unwanted fire alarm signals and the measures to address the problem including within the school and prison establishments;
- the most common accidental domestic fires;
- the extent of the work undertaken to inform vulnerable tenants on fire and cooking safety; and
- the nature and regularity of the fire safety work within public buildings.

Mr Laing and Mr Andrews provided detail on the joint working arrangements between agencies through the Community Planning Partnership Tasking Group including the development of information sharing protocols, the proactive use of intelligence and trend analysis.

##### **(2) Fire Related Risks Posed by Smoking and Smoking Materials**

The report presented information on the wide range of fire related risks posed by smoking and smoking materials. It was highlighted that carelessly discarded cigarettes and materials such as matches contributed to a high proportion of fires, including domestic fires which could result in both casualties and fatalities.

##### **(3) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Plan 2013-2016**

The report presented information on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Plan 2013-2016.

**(4) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Activity within the Falkirk Area during the 2013 Bonfire/Firework Period.**

The report presented information on the Fire and Rescue Service Activity within the Falkirk Area during the 2013 Bonfire/Firework Period.

Members referred to the success of the annual Falkirk Firework Display and suggested that the hosting of organised events led to a reduction in the number of ‘unauthorised’ bonfires and also in instances of anti-social behaviour. Given the success of the Falk display it was suggested that consideration be given to organising similar displays in Denny, Grangemouth and Bo’ness.

During discussion on the reports members requested that, where possible, graphs include both national and local trends, and comparisons with previous years. Additionally members requested that the problem of the lack of gritting of Wester Shieldhill Road at the steep hill between Hallglen and the Three Kings public house be raised with Police Scotland, and the Council’s Roads Services at the Community Planning Tasking Group. Following further discussion members requested a report from Falkirk Community Trust on the options available for organised Firework Displays within Denny, Grangemouth and Bo’ness and that it includes costs.

**Decision**

**The Committee noted the reports.**