

S14. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – FALKIRK PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services presenting the first local performance report by the local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

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.

A performance report for 1 April to 30 June (Quarter 1) was presented with performance against 5 key objectives highlighted.

Mr Lang gave a presentation on the detail of the performance report and indicated that he intended to provide greater context including benchmarking data and analysis of national trends as the report format developed. It was also intended that the information would, in due course, be provided at the local ward level.

Committee then questioned Mr Laing on his report and presentation.

In regard to the Service proactive approach to reducing accidental fires, members sought clarification on the extent to which the Service engaged with landlords and in particular when vulnerable people were involved.

Members sought information on:

- whether training was provided to new businesses within Grangemouth in light of the very particular risks in the area
- the trend in smoking related house fires
- whether there were any links between those fires which had been started deliberately and whether the day summer had been a factor in the increase from 4-12 compared to 2012

The committee questioned Mr Laing on the impact of the requirement to achieve, nationally, efficiency savings, on local service provision and, in particular, the committee sought clarification on the future use of the facilities at Maddiston, front line services and initiatives such as school visits.

Members then asked further questions on:

- the number of unwanted fire alarm signals in several, 274, and the proportion of these which are false alarms
- the methodology for setting the annual targets and whether in some examples these were too ambitious for example reducing road traffic collisions.
- the extent to which the service engages with the licensing board on site visits

In response to a question on local service provision and to the valued role of retained fire fighters within area, Martin Tognelli expressed support for the local arrangements but indicated that the system was less effective in other areas. The retained fire fighter services was an issue which the Board would look at nationally although he indicated that his preference would be to build on the evident strengths of the system in areas such as Falkirk. The Board would need to look at the issue in due course and look to build on the evident strengths of the system.

Decision

The Committee noted the performance of the service in regard to the local Fire and Rescue Plan.

The Committee requested that the Local Senior Officer:-

- (1) provides a trend analysis for smoking related incidents;**
- (2) includes benchmarking information in future reports when available, and**
- (3) keeps Committee advised of any proposals in regard to Maddiston Fire Station.**