

SE12. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – FALKIRK & WEST LOTHIAN COMMAND PERFORMANCE REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services presenting reports by the Local Senior Officer on: Falkirk performance for 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015, and Falkirk performance for April 2015 to June 2015. Andrew Wilson provided an overview of the report and Gary Laing, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) provided an overview of the attached performance reports.

Following reference to lockable bin lids in the presentation from the Local Senior Officer the committee asked for further information on deliberate fire setting. Eddie Ritchie advised that in past cases where areas had a high incidence of deliberate fire setting to bins the SFRS had utilised lockable lids to deter fire starting. In regard to any issues of deliberate fire setting at fly tipping sites the service engaged with environmental services to find a solution such as reduction of tree coverage or education in schools.

The committee asked about the service providing support to the Scottish Ambulance Service in deployment of defibrillators. Gary Laing stated that as the number of fires had decreased while the percentage of elderly population which had increased the demand on the Scottish Ambulance Service. In cardiac arrest situations in Scotland it was projected that 1,000 lives a year could be saved through early arrival to incidents. West Lothian was one of three areas selected to trial the deployment of defibrillators by the SFRS.

Members asked about controlled fire situations. Gary Laing stated that where the SFRS were contacted by an adult that they were going to have a controlled fire that was generally accepted but that if another person was to call the fire in then an appliance would attend.

The committee asked for further information on the tasking and co-ordinating group. Andrew Wilson stated that it was a part of the Community Planning Partnership approach. Gary Laing advised that the meetings were held at Grangemouth Police station involving the police, housing, SFRS and community safety wardens. He advised that most Council areas had a similar group in place.

Decision

The committee noted the report.