

SE28. 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 December 2015; contextual appendices containing supplementary information, and a report on Bonfire/Firework Activity for 2015. Gary Laing, Martin Riach and Eddie Ritchie (all Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS)) provided an overview of the attached performance reports.

The committee asked for information relating to fire incidents at schools. Gary Laing advised that the incidents had been of an anti-social nature and the Service had engaged directly with children in the schools.

Members asked if there was a reason for the 16% increase in deliberate fire setting. Gary Laing stated that there was no specific reason but that trend analysis had been carried out which had resulted in a more targeted approach in specific areas.

Following a question from members, Martin Riach confirmed that the comparator authority used in the figures was West Lothian.

The committee discussed the Safe Drive Stay Alive campaign and asked if this work had reduced the number of road traffic accidents involving young people. Gary Laing stated that it was difficult to make a direct correlation and highlighted that the Fire Service's approach was of education not enforcement.

Members asked why the number of false alarms varied quite significantly in different areas across the district. Gary Laing advised that each area had specific circumstances which needed to be accounted for, such as the hospital being situated in Larbert. The Service was being proactive and was carrying out engagement with owners of premises with high rates of false alarms. Martin Riach advised that more industrial areas tended to have higher incidents of false alarms.

The committee discussed derelict properties and associated fire risk.

Members asked about abuse toward Scottish Fire and Rescue Service staff on Bonfire night. Gary Laing stated that there had been a good response from Police Scotland where incidents occurred and that information had been exchanged between the two organisations as part of the preparation for the night.

Decision

The committee noted the performance report and supporting information.