



Report to: Falkirk Council Scrutiny Committee

**SUBJECT: SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE STRATEGIC INTENT
(PROPERTIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report provides members of the Falkirk Scrutiny Committee with an overview of Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Strategic Intent in relation to properties and infrastructure.

2. STRATEGIC INTENT DOCUMENT

- 2.1 The SFRS Strategic Intent is based upon a review of the Services' properties and infrastructure. The review did not include the number or location of Fire Stations or Fire Appliances located throughout Scotland. The Strategic Intent identified how the Service might rationalise its property assets across Scotland to remove duplication and best serve a single Service, whilst meeting the financial challenges faced by the Service.
- 2.2 The Strategic Intent contained the following recommendations;
- A single national training centre at Cambuslang (Clydesmill) with accommodation facilities,
 - Four strategically located Asset Resource Centres accommodating fleet, equipment and ICT workshops at Newbridge; Seafeld Road, Inverness; and two new centres, one in the West (Greater Glasgow/Lanarkshire area

- motorway access) and one on the North East (A90 Aberdeen-Dundee corridor),
- One main ICT Data Centre at Johnstone with an off-site Disaster Recovery facility,
- Initially working towards three Control Rooms at Johnstone; Tollcross, Edinburgh; and McAlpine Road, Dundee with plans to combine Edinburgh and Dundee into a new/upgraded facility in Dundee in the longer term,
- Three Service Delivery Headquarters, Mounthooly Way, Aberdeen (North); Newbridge, Edinburgh (East) and Bothwell Road, Hamilton (West),
- A new national Headquarters located in the area bounded by Perth, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

3. SFRS BOARD CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The SFRS Board considered the Strategic Intent at its meeting on Thursday 26 September, and agreed, by a vote of 6 to 5, the recommendations contained within the document with one amendment, that there should be three Control rooms in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.
- 3.2 The Board agreed that the Control room in Johnstone will be retained and that the Control Rooms in Dumfries, Maddiston and Thornton will close. The decision regarding the location of the second and third Control Rooms, whether Aberdeen, Dundee, Inverness or Edinburgh, will be decided as soon as possible once further information has been provided to the Board.

4. FALKIRK AREA IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Strategic Intent does not impact upon front line service delivery that the SFRS provides within the Falkirk area.
- 4.2 With specific reference to the Falkirk area, the most significant elements of the recommendations agreed by the Board are;
 - Frontline fire stations/appliances were not included in the review and remain unchanged at this time,

- The former Headquarters of the antecedent Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service at Maddiston will close.
- The administration support functions that were undertaken from the headquarters building at Maddiston will be transferred to either the East Service Delivery Headquarters at Newbridge or the new national Headquarters,
- The Stores and Workshops facilities based at Maddiston will be transferred to the East Service Delivery Asset Resource Centre at Newbridge,
- The Maddiston Mobilisation Control Room, will be transferred to the second or third Control Rooms location (subject to a determination of the Board on where these Control Rooms will be located,
- High frequency/low intensity training activities for operational staff will continue to be delivered locally at training facilities in the Falkirk area or in the East Service Delivery area.
- Low frequency/high intensity training activities will be delivered from local/regional/national facilities, or via the national training centre at Cambuslang

4.3 The recommendations agreed by the Board are regarded as strategic decisions that allow the SFRS to develop detailed implementation plans. As further information relating to the implementation plans become available, further reports will be developed and presented to the Falkirk Council Scrutiny Committee. It is anticipated that these reports will include updates on the progress of the Strategic Intent recommendations, as applicable to the Falkirk area, and an update on the progress of disposing of the site at Maddiston.

4.5 SFRS is currently engaged in a communications strategy with employees to advise them of the outcome of the Board decision. SFRS is also currently consulting employee representative regarding the decision of the Board.

- 4.6 SFRS with remains committed to a policy of no compulsory redundancies and any staff who are affected by the closure of the Maddiston site, will be offered various options through change management policies, which include, Voluntary Severance Early Retirement/Release, relocation and redeployment, pay protection and travel expenses.

5. IMPLEMENTATION TIMESCALES

- 5.1 Whilst no definitive detailed timescales have been agreed by the Board, it is envisaged that it may take up to 5 years to implement all of the recommendations contained within the Strategic Intent. This timescale allows the SFRS to commence the detailed planning and implementation arrangements required to enable each of the recommendations.

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 The Scrutiny Committee is invited to:
- a) Consider and make any comment in relation to this report.

Gary Laing
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Falkirk and West Lothian
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