

S34. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – FALKIRK & WEST LOTHIAN COMMAND PERFORMANCE REPORT

(1) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Intent (Properties and Infrastructure)

Details were given of a review by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service of its properties and infrastructure which was intended to allow the service to rationalise its property assets across Scotland. The main proposals of the review were summarised including the establishment of a national headquarters within the boundaries of the Glasgow – Perth – Edinburgh triangle, four strategically located asset resource centres, three service delivery centres and three control rooms.

The implications of the review for the Falkirk area were set out with emphasis on the closure of the former headquarters at Maddiston at the transfer of the administration functions, stores and workshops and control room from this site.

The committee sought detail on the proposals in regard to Maddiston - in particular on the likely timescales, implications for staff and the local economy. Mr Andrews confirmed that staff would be relocated or redeployed and restated that the SFRS was committed to a compulsory redundancy policy.

In regard to the site of SFRS headquarters members questioned whether the Falkirk area had been proposed and asserted that the area was neglected in terms of the national infrastructure. Mr Togneri confirmed that the Falkirk area could be considered and that he would take the committee's comments to the Fire Authority.

The committee, having been advised that the review did include at frontline service delivery, sought confirmation that, in light of the need for the service to meet its financial challenges, frontline services would not be reviewed. Mr Togneri confirmed that any review would be several years away. He also confirmed that, at this time, there were no plans to replace whole time staff with retained staff.

Decision

The committee noted the report.