

S17. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – FALKIRK & WEST LOTHIAN COMMAND PERFORMANCE REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services presenting the 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.

The Local Fire and Rescue Plan for 2014 -2017 had been approved by Council on 14 May 2014.

Gary Laing, Local Senior Officer, provided a detailed summary of the report.

The report set out quarter 4 (1 January to 31 March 2014) outcomes in relation to accidental dwelling fires, non domestic property fires, deliberate secondary fires, road traffic collisions and unwanted fire signals. For comparison purposes, the report included Scotland and West Lothian area performance information.

Additional information was also provided on special service incidents (which included road traffic collisions), violence to crews, incidents involving alcohol or drugs and smoking related activities. Mr Laing also outlined the work being carried out in terms of preventative activities such as premises audits, community engagement talks and visits and the work of the home safety visit programme.

The committee sought clarification on the rationale for undertaking leaflet drops to nearby schools as part of the proactive diversionary programmes aimed at reducing deliberate secondary fires. Mr Laing stated that empirical evidence, as shown by hot spots, indicated that such action could reduce the instances of fire raising.

Members then discussed the arrangements for home safety visits and sought information on the number of visits undertaken and the number of detectors fitted as a consequence. Mr Laing explained that of 223 visits to premises which were deemed high risk, 64 detectors had been fitted. He explained the process for requesting a home visit and highlighted that of the 223 properties visited, the vast majority already had detectors fitted when the visits were made. He further explained that the Service fitted battery operated detectors. It was the practice, on cost grounds, not to fit hardwired devices.

The committee discussed the information provided on occurrences of unwanted fire alarm signals. Mr Laing confirmed that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service did not charge for attending unwanted fire alarm signals but would soon introduce charging for providing certain services. Generally, a charge would be made if there was no threat to personal safety.

Decision

The Committee noted the quarter 4 performance, as attached at appendix 1 to the report.