

SE22. Performance Report: Scottish Fire & Rescue Service

The committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services presenting the local performance report of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for the period 1 October 2017 to 31 March 2018.

The report summarised performance against the local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-18. The Plan was based on:

- The Scottish Government's overarching vision for public services;
- Strategic priorities set by Scottish Ministers;
- National outcomes within the National Performance Framework; and
- The Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013. This sets out 4 Strategic aims for the service and 7 national equalities outcomes.

The plan also identified 7 local priorities. These were:

- Priority 1 - Local Risk Management and Preparedness
- Priority 2 - Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires
- Priority 3 - Reduction in Fire Fatalities and Casualties
- Priority 4 - Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting
- Priority 5 - Reduction of Fires in Non-Domestic Property
- Priority 6 - Reduction in Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies
- Priority 7 - Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

The committee sought further detail on instances of fire raising at Polmont Young Offenders institution. Mr Lockhart provided background and context, explaining the educational and preventative work undertaken by the Service.

Members considered instances of fires in dwellinghouses and asked whether the increase in electronic equipment in households, such as computers and computer games, had contributed to an increase in fires in the home. Mr Lockhart stated that kitchens remained the highest risk. However bedrooms were now a higher risk than previously. Although it could be expected that more electronics would mean more fires he stated that there was also a greater fire and safety awareness nowadays and so the number of fires was less than predicted. He also explained that in instances of domestic fires, alcohol and drugs continued to be a factor.

The committee discussed and praised the Safe Drive Stay Alive educational programme. In response to a question on its effectiveness, Mr Lockhart agreed that it was difficult to produce statistics because it was a preventative campaign and importantly, road traffic accidents could happen out with the area. This meant that while the number of accidents in Falkirk was decreasing, it was possible that accidents involving Falkirk citizens occurred out with the area. Following questions, Mr Lockhart outlined the methods employed, such as social media, to publicise the campaign.

Following questions, Mr Lockhart summarised the ongoing discussion with the Fire Brigades Union in regard to pay and the role of fire fighters. The roll out of the out of hours cardiac support had been put on hold pending the conclusion of the dialogue. This service would however provide significant benefits to the public.

Decision

The committee approved the report and acknowledged progress by the organisation in meeting their priorities.