

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 15 May 2018

A consultation on the safe and planned future of the Scottish Fire and Rescue

Item number 7.8

Report number

Executive/routine

Wards

Executive Summary

This report is in response to the Scottish Fire and Rescue consultation: 'A consultation on the safe and planned future of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.' This presents an opportunity for the Council to engage to the consultation on the future of fire and rescue.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service main purpose is to work with communities and the public sectors on prevention, protection and response, to improve the safety and wellbeing of people throughout Scotland.

The current Scottish Fire and Rescue Service operating model has served Scotland well - but as fires have decreased, new and emerging risks have risen such as a growing elderly population needing support to stay safe in their homes, and the threat of terror attack. The results of this consultation will allow the Service to better meet these risks and ensure their staff are equipped and trained to take on an even wider role.

A consultation on the safe and planned future of the Scottish Fire and Rescue

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to note the closing date for submitting a response to the Fire and Rescue consultation was 14 May 2018. We have requested an extension of this deadline to allow the Committee to consider and agree the response.
- 1.2 To review the content of the Appendix, which sets out the Council's response to the consultation and make any subsequent changes.

2. Background

- 2.1 Consultation is an essential part of the policy-making process. The views expressed in response to this consultation along with other available evidence will be used to help inform the future of Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.
- 2.2 The consultation runs from the 9 November to the 1 March. The final deadline for responses was **14 May 2018**. An extension to this deadline has been granted so that the committee could consider the proposed submission.

3. Main report

- 3.1 The Council's response to the consultation is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The Council will look to continue and deepen what has, to date, been very successful partnership with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services. In this respect the Council supports the work being done by the SFRS to expand the potential of its role to be wider and more proactively contributing to the prevention agenda.
- 3.3 The benefits of this review on the future of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will impact across many public-sector bodies. It is also especially relevant as public resources are more effectively and efficiently used to benefit our communities and improve public sector organisations, community and individual outcomes. This review is a welcome approach in the current public spending environment. This review is also a core part of community planning ethos and the wider public-sector reform agenda.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 No measures of success are reported in responding to this consultation.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from this report. The activity required to respond to the consultation is met from existing Council budgets.

6. Risk, policy, compliance, and governance impact

- 6.1 The responses to the consultation are aligned (not in conflict) to the outcomes and actions of the Councils Commitments and Council Business Plan.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 This consultation response aims to directly improve outcomes for those that are in greater need within communities. It therefore does not conflict with any of the outcomes defined in the Council's Equality and Rights Framework Plan.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 This report has been prepared in response to a consultation by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and so there is no direct sustainability impact arising from this. However, the proposed change, if enacted, would support sustainability through its action to improve social justice, and economic wellbeing.

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 The response to the consultation has been developed based on engagement with relevant Heads of Council Services.

10. Background reading/external references

None.

Andrew Kerr

Chief Executive

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11. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Response to Fire and Rescue consultation

Appendix – City of Edinburgh Council Response

The table below summarises the City of Edinburgh proposed response to the consultation on the safe and planned future of the Scottish Fire and Rescue.

Consultation Question	Response
<p><i>Do you agree with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service overall vision for transformation?</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><i>Please say in the box below what you think the main benefits for Scotland will be</i></p>	<p>The City of Edinburgh Council experiences significant benefit from the partnership working and preventative role of that the SFRS currently plays in the city. The SFRS is an active and key partner across the remit of the Edinburgh Partnership but by way of example, in respect of community safety:</p> <p>The SFRS is a member of the Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership (ECSP); a strategic group responsible for co-ordinating a multi-agency response to promote community safety, to reduce reoffending, and to tackle antisocial behaviour. The ECSP's priorities (due to be reviewed in the summer of 2018), are to reduce harm, reduce violence and reduce antisocial behaviour. The SFRS plays a key role in supporting the ECSP priorities and in reducing harm through its work to promote fire safety in the home and across communities.</p> <p>In addition to responding to emergency calls and extinguishing fires, SFRS work which supports the ECSP's aims includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home visits to residents giving advice on fire safety • Fitting smoke alarms in the home • Delivering educational input to school children on keeping safe around fireworks and during bonfire night • Attending emergency calls to carry out rescue work (for example road traffic collisions) <p>The SFRS also assists with delivering an interactive safety programme for primary 7 school children in Edinburgh and the Lothians. The centre manufactures everyday risk in a safe environment and aims to teach children how to deal with or avoid risks altogether. The interactive community safety education activity includes advice on road safety, fire safety and internet safety, while also aiming to develop pro-active citizenship.</p> <p>On a more specific theme, the Council is leading a thematic Bonfire CIP to facilitate better partner co-ordination in the lead up to and during bonfire night 2018 to minimise risk of harm to individuals and communities from bonfires and fireworks. The CIP was established in January 2018 following considerable antisocial behaviour and substantial damage to property caused by antisocial use of fireworks during bonfire night in 2017. The SFRS and the Council as well as other partners such as</p>

Consultation Question	Response
	<p>police, are working together, including sharing information on 2017 activity, to ensure early identification of hotspots to inform a comprehensive plan to minimise risk and harm in 2018. Activity under the thematic CIP will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intelligence gathering to identify those involved in bonfire and firework related antisocial behaviour • Working with localities to identify resources available to assist with removing hazardous accumulations in the lead up to and on bonfire night 2018 • Staff briefings to highlight the importance of logging and reporting bonfire and firework related activity causing concern • Exploring CCTV possibilities to assist with co-ordination of clear ups • Trading Standards joint visits to licensed premises to ensure full compliance with legislation regarding under age sales of fireworks, fireworks storage and unlicensed sales • Liaising with police school link officers and schools on extending SFRS educational input <p>Representatives from the SFRS also attend the monthly CIPs which take place in each locality to discuss issues and concerns in an area, and to plan and implement a local, co-ordinated partner response. Issues affecting local communities may span across partner responsibilities and therefore require partnership working to resolve; this is demonstrated through the work of the Council's Family and Household Support Service (FHSS).</p> <p>The Council's FHSS operating in each locality works with individuals and communities to support the priorities of the ECSP at a local level. Staff from community safety, family support and housing support work together to improve outcomes for people and tailor their support to each family, individual or community based on individual circumstance. FHSS staff work with their SFRS counterparts to minimise risk of harm and address issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire hazards in communal stairs such as blocking exits or leaving rubbish in communal areas • Fire raising (see example below) • Fire risks to individuals and property due to vulnerability through age, disability, mental health • Fire risks due to lifestyle for example, hoarding <p>Additionally, partnership working may involve joint FHSS and SFRS visits to vulnerable resident(s) to establish an individual's circumstance and agree an action plan to provide support and engagement to help manage fire risks in the home and/or to facilitate access to additional specialist services where required.</p> <p>Finally, the SFRS has contributed to the Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2016-19 and the Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan 2017-18. It runs prevention and intervention activities aimed at engaging with and inspiring vulnerable young people to support them away from offending behaviour and towards positive destinations. The SFRS offers a wide-ranging programme of community safety initiatives to encourage</p>

Consultation Question	Response
	<p>young people to get involved in activities to make a real difference to them and their community. The initiatives also allow them to experience what it means to be a firefighter, while learning valuable life skills which can help a person desist from offending including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team working and team leading • Problem solving skills • Confidence and communication • Health and safety awareness • Basic first aid • Understanding of the contribution SFRS and other agencies make to communities <p>The Council also has a well-developed relationship with SFRS in respect of resilience. Alongside the SFRS, the City of Edinburgh Council is a designated Category 1 Responder Organisation under the terms of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. As such, the City of Edinburgh Council and the SFRS, in conjunction with other Category 1 Responder Organisations in Scotland (including Police Scotland, Scottish Ambulance Service, Health Boards, other Local Authorities and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency) have a statutory duty to liaise and cooperate with each other across the spectrum of emergency preparedness activities, through planning, training and exercising initiatives.</p> <p>In this area, this activity is coordinated through Resilience Partnerships at Local (Lothian and Borders) and Regional (East of Scotland area) levels. (Similar Resilience Partnership arrangements exist in the North and West of Scotland with a Scottish level Resilience Partnership providing strategic oversight.) Within the Resilience Partnership structure, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has assumed the lead role for risk assessment across Scotland and has coordinated the publication of Community Risk Registers for each partnership area. The SFRS are also represented on the multi-agency, Edinburgh CONTEST (UK Counter Terrorism Strategy) Group.</p> <p>A SFRS vision which seeks to continue and deepen this type of collaborative activity with public sector partners and further develop a preventative approach is welcomed by the City of Edinburgh Council.</p> <p>The benefits of this review's proposed approach to the future of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will impact on the council but also across many public-sector bodies.</p> <p>The Council supports the SFRS in ensuring that public resources are more effectively and efficiently used to benefit our communities and improve public sector organisations, community and individual outcomes. It is particularly relevant and welcome in light of the current projections for public spending across the UK.</p>

Consultation Question	Response
<i>Please provide your response to the following statements by ticking the relevant box:</i>	

<i>I trust the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to change its operating model – including station footprint – in ways that are safe for Scotland.</i>	Agree
<i>Firefighters should be trained and equipped to meet the new and emerging risks Scotland faces</i>	Agree
<i>Firefighters should be rewarded for taking on an expanded role, and in accordance with the risks they take</i>	No opinion
<i>Latest technology should be used where possible to improve firefighter and public safety</i>	No opinion
<i>Firefighters could be trained to take on roles that would reduce the burden on other public services</i>	Agree
<i>A more flexible approach to crewing during the late evening and early morning hours would allow firefighters to do more during the day when demand is higher</i>	Agree
<i>Please say why you agreed or disagreed, in the box below:</i>	<p>CEC has a long history of working well with the Fire Service as part of our Edinburgh Partnership as well as in our localities. However, there is more that we could achieve together within the context of the expanded role described in the consultation paper.</p> <p>This new role would allow us to be more innovative in our collaborations, targeting prevention interventions which improve people's outcomes and remove demand from crucial services such as social care.</p> <p>The council would welcome the opportunity to explore the full potential of this type of partnership</p>

Consultation Question	Response
<i>What single thing is most important to you about the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service?</i>	<p>Given the breadth of a council's role, there are many aspects of our work where we would value additional support and partnership working with SFRS.</p> <p>Again, taking community Safety as an example, there is significant opportunity to develop the partnership between Council FHSS and SFRS staff potentially by providing training for FHSS staff on all aspects of preventative support offered by the SFRS so that SFRS referrals are routinely considered for those who could benefit from this input. Other possibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the number of joint FHSS and SFRS visits to residents contacting FHSS, where appropriate and where resources permit • Building upon the current relationship between FHSS and SFRS to ensure that vulnerable people are identified as early as possible and offered appropriate support

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners continuing to encourage vulnerable residents who do not wish to engage with support services, to accept a home safety visit from SFRS <p>The council would also appreciate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • considering whether the SFRS input to schools could be enhanced by introducing joint partner briefings for example, widening the content to include some community safety education and advice around bonfire night. • Exploring strengthening links with the Young People’s Service to ensure that vulnerable young people are given the opportunity to engage with SFRS programmes to gain valuable life skills and help them desist from offending. This could include promoting opportunities available through the SFRS Modern Apprenticeship programme to school leavers and disadvantaged young people as well as young people with offending backgrounds. • Identifying and assessing whether any opportunities exist within the SFRS for Community Payback activity to support and help rehabilitate people serving community sentences. <p>In respect of Resilience, the council welcomes the intention of the SFRS to maintain focus on its core capabilities to enable the service to respond to all types of serious emergencies including terrorist incidents, in conjunction with partner agencies as appropriate.</p> <p>However, it is the of the potential role of SFRS in the sphere of Health and Social Care which offers huge opportunities to benefit our communities. Undoubtedly the pressures and challenges facing adult social care are pressing and well documented. There are, as described in the paper, ways in which the expanded role of the fire service could support the council, working alongside social care and other integration professionals to address demand for services and improve outcomes for people by supporting early assessments, adaptations and potentially providing an emergency responder role.</p> <p>In particular CEC would want to ensure better use of the total sector’s capacity to identify and engage earlier to prevent falls and inactivity created from minor falls. For example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When SFRS carry out Home safety visits there is a perfect opportunity to engage with the elderly population who possibly have not accessed any Health and Social care services previously and is an ideal time to signpost, provide education and refer onto falls prevention services as required. • The Prevention of Management of Falls in the Community: A Framework for Action 2014/16 demonstrates many examples of the importance of this early engagement and the difference it can make to a person independence and quality of life. Engaging with SFRS would be a fantastic opportunity for us to make better use of the total sector’s capacity. • Falls coordinators had previously engaged with SFRS in 3 stations (Summer 2017) in Edinburgh and provided training on carrying out conversations to identify people at risk of falls, providing advice and signposting and referring them on to falls prevention services. There was a planned roll out stage by stage across the city – this was delayed due to the consultation but we would welcome re starting this piece of work.
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	This type of preventative collaborative working across the public-sector bodies is at the very heart of integration and offers significant gains for all if we can deliver on this opportunity. CEC would welcome the opportunity to have more detailed conversations on this.
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Consultation Question	Response
<i>Do you think there is anything the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service should NOT do as part of transformation? Please give a reason for your answer in the box below.</i>	none
<i>Do you have any final comment to make on the transformation of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service?</i>	none