



**SCOTTISH**  
**FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

Working together for a safer Scotland

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL, PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>08 AUGUST 2016</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>AM JIM HYMAS, LSO ARGYLL AND BUTE AND EAST AND WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE</b>

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>SFRS CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME</b>
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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To inform the PRS committee of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's (SFRS) capital budgetary allocation for 2016/2017, including how capital spends have been allocated to date, across the Argyll and Bute area.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The PRS committee are recommended to note the contents of this report.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Budget (Scotland) (No.5) Bill, passed by the Scottish Parliament on 24 February 2016, set the capital Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) funding for the SFRS at £10.800million for 2016/17. This represents a 57% reduction on the funding provided in 2015/16.
- 3.2 In addition to Capital DEL budget, significant capital receipts are programmed to be delivered during 2016/17, from the sale of surplus properties under the service's Property Estate - Strategic Intent programme. These receipts, which had been anticipated in earlier planning, are being reinvested, with permission from the Scottish Government, to develop a fit for purpose support estate for the SFRS.

#### **4 CAPITAL PLANNING CONTEXT**

- 4.1 Typically, the Board of the SFRS has previously set a rolling 3-year Capital Programme, and it was anticipated in the service Budget Strategy, that this would be the case for 2016-2019.
- 4.2 Previous 3-year programmes have been based on known future funding levels or a projection based on current funding. The funding allocation for 2016/17 represents a significant reduction on previous levels and is not considered to be sustainable beyond the 12-month period.
- 4.3 Work has also been on-going to develop a Long Term Financial Strategy (LTFS) for the SFRS. Through the LTFS, and linking to the new SFRS Strategic Plan, it is anticipated that work will be commissioned to review the composition of existing assets, to determine whether it fully meets the needs of a modern fire and rescue service. However any transitioning that may be required would have to take place over a medium to long term period, and would require up-front investment. It is anticipated that the future shape of public sector assets, particularly in rural communities, is likely to involve greater collaboration across all partner organisations.

#### **5 CAPITAL INVESTMENT WITHIN ARGYLL AND BUTE**

- 5.1 Since the inception of SFRS on 01 April 2013, the service has continued, in a very tough financial climate, to invest and upgrade stations within the Argyll and Bute local area. Examples of these include:
- Low energy and low maintenance LED lighting systems have been installed at numerous stations including Campbeltown, Inveraray and Bowmore
  - Air source heat pump heating trialled at Bridge of Orchy
  - Low carbon radiant heating installed at Strachur
  - Over £400K has been invested on a new roof covering at Oban Fire Station
  - LED lighting system installed at Oban Fire station
  - Resurfacing of tarmac at front and rear of Tarbert Fire Station
  - Renewal of roughcasting at Tarbert Fire Station.
- 5.2 Moreover, the SFRS has executed a national condition survey which has formed a robust assessment of where the service has to prioritise its capital and revenue spends. This survey has highlighted that the SFRS properties within Argyll and Bute are very well maintained and required light touch or cyclic maintenance activities such as redecoration or new lighting systems etc.

5.3 There are no current plans for any further significant investment on any of SFRS sites within Argyll and Bute but these will be maintained fully functioning and ready to mobilise to assist in the protection of the local communities.

## **6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

6.1 An impact assessment has been carried out as part of the budget setting process which indicates that the relationship between the Capital Budget and the general equality duty is largely indirect due to the high level nature of the budget setting process. The impact assessment highlights that the more detailed expenditure against the budget in relation to individual SFRS policies and initiatives will have more direct relevance to both the general equality duty and the protected characteristics and where deemed relevant should be subject to their own impact assessment. For example, the refurbishment of facilities would be on the grounds of preventing unlawful discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity with particular significance for age, disability, sex, pregnancy & maternity and gender reassignment. Overall, the Capital Budget does not present any obvious barriers for continuing to make a positive contribution on the grounds of equality.

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