
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE STRATEGIC PLAN 2013-16

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) replaced the previous eight regional Fire and Rescue Services on 1 April 2013.
- 1.2 The service has issued its first Strategic Plan for consultation, with a response deadline of 31 August for comments.
- 1.3 This paper sets out a draft response to the consultation questions that have been issued with the plan that the council will consider on 29 August 2013.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 (i) That the PRS note that the council will consider the content of this report as Argyll and Bute Council's response to the consultation on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Plan 2013-16.
- (ii) That PRS note that the response is sent to the SFRS by the consultation end date of 31 August 2013.
- (iii) That PRS note the timescale in the draft Strategic Plan for the preparation of local fire and rescue plans, the commitment to partnership working and the role of the Local Senior Officer in delivering the local plan.

3 DETAIL

- 3.1 The council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Plan 2013-16. The council is committed to strengthening partnership working and seeks to continue to build on its excellent working relationship with the Fire and Rescue Service in Argyll and Bute.
- 3.2 The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is a valuable and active member of the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership and contributes significantly to the delivery of the Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-23 (SOA). The Local Senior Officer (LSO) is a member of the Community Planning Management Committee and Chief Officers' Group. The LSO also attends the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee.

3.3 The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Plan 2013-16 is attached to this report. Accompanying the plan is a consultation questionnaire, containing 12 questions. Responses to each of these questions are set out below and will be considered by the Council on 29 August.

3.4 **Vision and Values**

3.4.1 **Vision**

Q1. *Does our vision clearly set out what the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is trying to achieve?*

Yes. The vision sets out clearly that the SFRS aims to be a world leading service. It identifies the principles of people, through training, service and continuous improvement; partnership and community work, removing geographical barriers; efficiency and using technological innovation. This aligns with the principles of public sector reform.

3.4.2 Q2. *Would you have expected to see anything different?*

No

3.4.3 **Values**

Q3. *Do these values meet your expectation of a modern public service?*

Yes. The values set out in the Strategic plan of Safety, Dignity, Excellence, Diversity, Fairness, Equality, Integrity and Respect are appropriate for a modern public service organisation and complement the approach to equalities set out in the Argyll and Bute SOA 2013-23.

3.4.4 Q4. *Would you have expected to see anything else that is not reflected in this values set?*

No

3.5 **Aims for the development of the service**

3.5.1 SRFS have set 4 strategic aims for the service to help deliver the vision and meet the Governments expectations of reform. These are:

- 1 .Improved safety of communities and staff
2. More equitable access to fire and rescue services
3. Improved outcomes through partnership
4. Develop a culture of continuous improvement

3.5.2 Q5. *Would you have expected to see different/additional strategic aims?*

No. These aims align with the approach and content of the Argyll and

Bute Single Outcome Agreement 2013-23.

- 3.5.3 Q6. *Is it clear to you how our activities will achieve our four strategic aims and targets?*

Yes – The inclusion of a clear and timed plan for the implementation of actions, following each strategic aim, is effective in making it clear how activities relate to delivery.

- 3.5.4 Q7. *Would you expect the service to be engaging in different/additional activities to achieve those aims?*

No

3.6 **Strategic aim 1: Improved safety of our communities and staff**

- 3.6.1 Q 8. *Do our aims and activities in this section meet your expectations of the service – if not why not?*

- 3.6.2 Yes - The council welcomes the clear commitment in the plan to establish agreements for joint approaches with partners, which is critical to the efficient and effective delivery of outcomes in the SOA. The council also welcomes the clear commitment to improved community resilience, which is particularly important to our remote, rural and island communities. This is an area where local joint working has been and continues to be excellent.

3.7 **Strategic aim 2: More equitable access to fire and rescue services**

- 3.7.1 Q9. *Do our aims and activities in this section meet your expectations of the service – if not why not?*

- 3.7.2 Yes - The council welcomes the evidence based approach to understanding the needs of local communities, as understanding place has been a key development criteria for the SOA 2013-23. Argyll and Bute has a complex and diverse range of communities, both mainland and island, and their varied needs present a challenge for the public sector as a whole in delivering services. The council welcomes the risk based approach to profiling in the plan but would stress that the assessment of risk by SFRS as a national service must take into account the issues of remoteness and peripherality that affects the majority of communities in Argyll and Bute.

3.8 **Strategic aim 3: Improved outcomes through partnership**

- 3.8.1 Q10. *Do our aims and activities in this section meet your expectations of the service – if not why not?*

- 3.8.2 Yes - The council welcomes the clarity set out in Strategic Aim 3 in

relation to the role of the Local Senior Officer (LSO) and the commitment to community engagement and partnership working. The development of a local fire and rescue plan and the SFRS commitment to accountability through community planning is welcomed and will be further developed as the SOA is finalised and the performance management mechanism process is refined. The council is committed to working closely with the LSO in delivering joint outcomes for the people of Argyll and Bute.

3.9 Strategic aim 4: Culture of continuous improvement

3.9.1 Q11. *Do our aims and activities in this section meet your expectations of the service – if not why not?*

3.9.2 Yes – the council welcomes the clarity surrounding the development of the organisational structure and workforce for SFRS. The council particularly welcomes the commitment to setting out a new model for the future of service delivery in remote and rural areas. The council will work closely with the SFRS to support this process. The council would recommend that in remoter regions, the development of joint learning and development and the sharing of training resources across the public sector would be beneficial and should be considered as part of the SFRS learning and development strategy

3.10 Q12 Additional Comments – Please make any additional comments that have not been covered in the previous questions.

3.10.1 The council welcomes the clarity of the SFRS Strategic Plan and looks forward to working closely with the LSO as the plan is implemented.

4 CONCLUSION

4.1 The SFRS Strategic Plan 2013-16 is a clear document that makes commitments to delivering the national fire and rescue service. It addresses key issues for Argyll and Bute, such as the effective development of a model to deliver fire and rescue services in remote and rural areas. It also demonstrates a clear commitment to partnership working and the delivery of outcomes.

5 IMPLICATIONS

Policy	None
Financial	None
HR	None
Legal	None
Equal Opportunities	None
Customer Service	None
Risk	The SFRS Strategic Plan sets out a framework for managing risk in relation to fire and rescue

services throughout the communities in Argyll and Bute.

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Attachments:

1 - Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Plan 2013-16

2 – Strategic Plan Consultation Questions