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PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

5 MARCH 2014

Report by Area Manager David Stapley, Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

PERTH & KINROSS LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN 2014-2017

Abstract

This Report outlines the methodology applied to determine the priorities and objectives for inclusion within the Perth & Kinross Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17, including the process of engagement and consultation. It provides an overview of how the plan will contribute to both national and local planning frameworks.

1 RECOMMENDATION

1.1 It is recommended that Members:

- Note the details within the report that outlines the methodology used to determine local priorities and objectives, and the relationship to national frameworks.
- Note the outline feedback from our local consultation and engagement events and the proposed amendments to the draft Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17 from these.
- Approve the proposed amendments to our Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17.

Members should note that approval of the final version of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17 will take place at a forthcoming meeting of this committee.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Police and Fire Reform Act (Scotland) 2012 provides the legislative framework that will support the work of the new single Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, including local scrutiny and engagement for the delivery of local fire and rescue services to protect and improve local services and strengthen the connection between services and communities.

- 2.2 The Act establishes the requirement for the Local Senior Officer, in consultation with the Local Authority, to develop a Local Fire and Rescue Plan. The purpose of the Plan is to meet the requirements of the Act by reflecting local priorities and objectives that contribute to the delivery of successful outcomes, which have been identified through local community planning. The Local Fire and Rescue Plan must:
- Set out the main priorities and objectives for Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in the local area
 - Explain the reasons for selecting those priorities and objectives
 - Set out proposed delivery arrangements and how they will achieve the priorities and objectives
 - Identify outcomes against which the achievement of those priorities and objectives may be measured
 - Detail how the priorities, objectives and arrangements will contribute to the delivery of relevant local outcomes

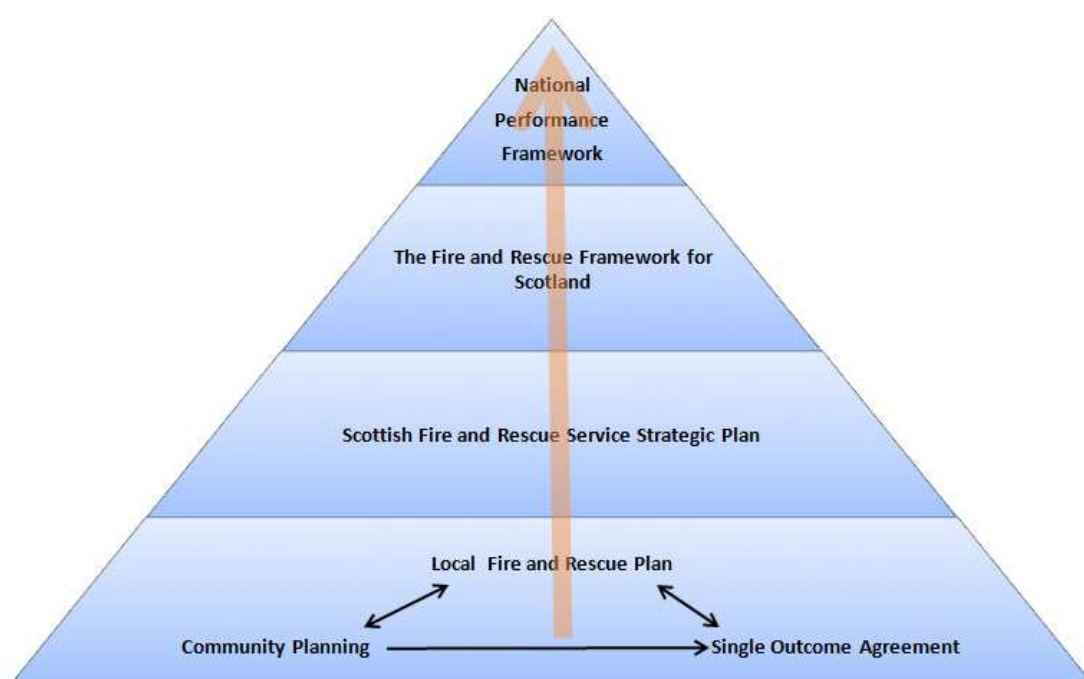
3 NATIONAL CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Scottish National Performance Framework underpins the delivery of the Scottish Government's agenda, supports the outcomes-based approach to performance and establishes the Scottish Government's Purpose. The purpose is underpinned by five strategic objectives to make Scotland: ***Wealthier and Fairer, Smarter, Healthier, Safer and Stronger, and Greener.***
- 3.2 The shared Statement of Ambition makes clear the commitment of the Scottish Government, COSLA and representatives of Community Planning Partnerships to retain and develop Community Planning and SOAs as the heart of an outcomes-based approach to public services in Scotland.
- 3.3 Single Outcome Agreements were established following the Concordat which was established between COSLA and the Scottish Government in 2007. In support of this agreement Perth & Kinross Council have produced a Single Outcome Agreement / Community Plan 2013-2023 which sets out how the council and its partners will work towards improving national outcomes for the public in a way that reflects local circumstances and priorities.
- 3.4 The Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003 places a statutory duty on local authorities, police and fire authorities to work in partnership with other public services and voluntary organisations to improve the delivery of services to communities using customer focused outcomes.
- 3.5 The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 is the principle legislation which details the duties of the fire and rescue service including home fire safety, fire safety in business premises and emergency response.
- 3.6 The Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013 sets out the Scottish Governments expectations, strategic priorities and objectives and provides guidance and support for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in the carrying out its functions.

- 3.7 Section 41A of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 requires the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) to prepare a strategic plan setting out how it will deliver against the Fire and Rescue Framework and the outcomes against which delivery will be measured. The plan covers a three year period and was published in October 2013.

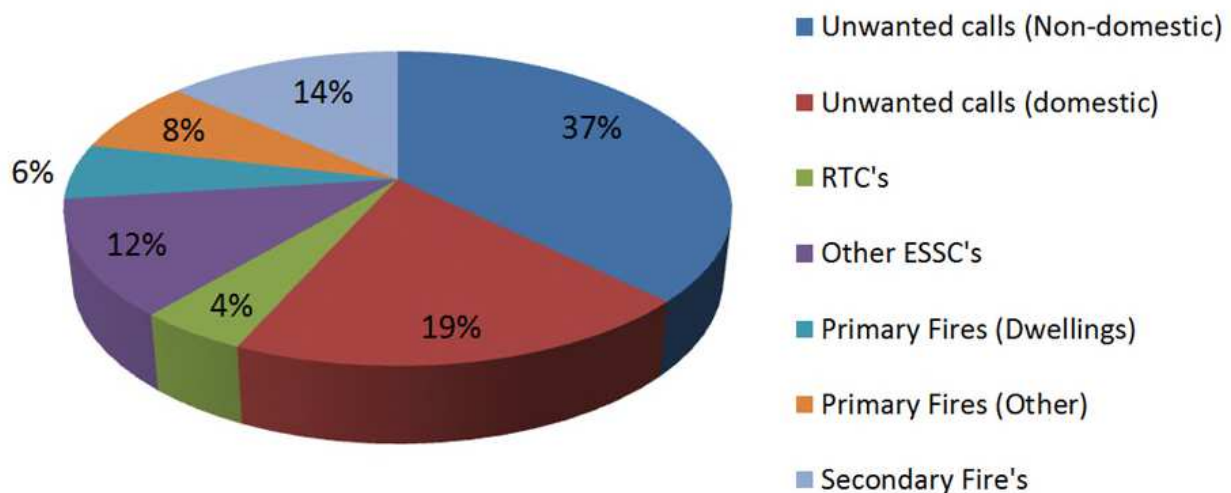
4 DEVELOPING THE FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN

- 4.1 As the SFRS have now published a Strategic Plan, as required under section 41G of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, interim plans must be reviewed to ensure consistency and alignment with the SFRS strategic planning cycle. This review has contributed to the development of a Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17 to meet the priorities of the SFRS and the needs of the communities without losing focus upon the outcomes that were agreed in the interim 2013-14 plan. This ensures that the Local Senior Officer continues to contribute to Perth & Kinross Single Outcome Agreement / Community Plan 2013-2023 whilst effective and sustainable relationships with our partners are maintained and enhanced.
- 4.2 The National Context detailed in the previous paragraphs (3.1-3.7) provides the strategic direction for developing the Local Fire and Rescue Plan. Additionally the Single Outcome Agreement / Community Plan 2013-2023 developed by key community planning partners articulates the local outcomes and strategic objectives relevant to Perth & Kinross, which will be delivered through the Perth & Kinross Community Planning Partnership. As a statutory partner it is important that the Local Fire and Rescue Plan supports both the delivery of local outcomes and the strategic direction provided by the Scottish Government and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.
- 4.3 The following diagram summarises and illustrates the relationship between the key components within the planning framework.



- 4.4 The Single Outcome Agreement / Community Plan 2013-2023 Strategic Assessment and the Fire and Rescue Strategic Assessment were key tools for identifying fire and rescue priorities within Perth & Kinross. These assessments bring together a range of information, including fire and rescue incident data, intelligence from the local police, NHS Tayside and Perth & Kinross Council to identify local issues. This included data relating to population composition, housing, health and areas of deprivation (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2012).

Figure1: Perth & Kinross Incident Profile 2009-13



- 4.5 Understanding local conditions and reflecting the community voice is one of the key principles for good scrutiny and engagement. A programme of engagement events were facilitated between 29 November 2013 and 14 February 2014 to provide an opportunity for key stakeholders to shape and influence the priorities and outcomes contained within the plan. Key stakeholder groups involved in this consultation included:

- Elected Members
- Community Partners
- Community Groups
- Business Community
- Staff

- 4.6 The feedback from the consultation process was then analysed and a summary report produced (Appendix 1). The report has been used to assist in shaping the draft local priorities and objectives for local fire and rescue delivery within Perth & Kinross.

- 4.7 Taking cognisance of the strategic context and a review of the evidence sources, detailed in the previous paragraphs, augmented by local knowledge and professional judgement the following priorities have been identified for the local area which are detailed within the attached draft Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Perth & Kinross 2014-2017 (Appendix 2). These priorities are:

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

5 MANAGING PERFORMANCE

- 5.1 Reports published by Audit Scotland have highlighted the significance of a robust performance management framework to ensure that the necessary outcomes are achieved and the principles of Best Value are met. A key element of the planning process was identification of suitable measures through which the delivery of the agreed priorities and outcomes can be measured and their success evaluated.
- 5.2 Currently annual operating plans, which will underpin the local fire and rescue plans, are being developed which will contribute towards the agreed priorities. Performance indicators and supporting targets will then be used to assist in tracking the performance of the local fire and rescue service in achieving these priorities and local outcomes. The performance indicators will support Scotland Performs, SFRS objectives and the local Single Outcome Agreement.
- 5.3 The Local Senior Officer will present a written quarterly performance report detailing the high level fire and rescue issues on-going within the area, highlighting the progress against the seven priorities and local outcomes. These reports will be tabled at future meetings of this committee.
- 5.4 Additional reports will be provided as required to advise elected members on specific aspects of service delivery and to keep them appraised on significant developments within the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 sets out local scrutiny and engagement arrangements for the delivery of local fire and rescue services that will protect and improve local services whilst strengthening the connection between the Service and the local community. This places a requirement on the Local Senior Officer to involve the local authority and consult appropriately with respect to setting the priorities and objectives for local fire and rescue delivery within the plan.

- 6.2 The Perth & Kinross Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17 will be implemented on 1st April 2014. In developing the plan the Local Senior Officer initiated a programme of community engagement and consultation to give the people of Perth & Kinross an opportunity to shape and influence the priorities and objectives for their local fire and rescue service.
- 6.3 A community engagement and consultation strategy was developed to provide clear direction on how to effectively engage with and consult our stakeholders, partners and staff. A local plan public consultation survey was also used to capture feedback from key stakeholders on our proposed plan.
- 6.4 Before implementation of the consultation strategy advice was sought from Community Safety Committee to confirm the suitability of the approach, to ensure that it met the outcomes of openness and transparency, local engagement and equality and diversity. The following elements were integral to the strategy.
- Engagement with elected members and community planning partners
 - Engagement with local community and focus groups
 - Engagement with staff representative bodies
 - Engagement with the business community including Chamber of Commerce and Federation of Small Business
 - Use of online surveys and social media
 - Publishing consultation to WWW and internal intranet sites
 - Consultation with a range of stakeholders on the draft priorities and objectives, including locally elected members, council officials, local communities, and local planning partnerships.
- 6.5 The consultation phase commenced on 29 November 2013 and ended on the 14 February 2014. The methodology included online surveys, use of social media, Websites, circulation of drafts to stakeholders and face to face meetings with elected members, council officers, local partners and community based groups.
- 6.6 The feedback from these channels has been reviewed and will be reflected in the final version of the Perth & Kinross Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17.

7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no financial implications as a consequence of this report.

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 Equality groups were included in the consultation process with all feedback received being considered for inclusion in the final version of the plan.
- 8.2 An equality impact assessment has been carried out by the SFRS in accordance with their equality duties.

9 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 This report will have no direct impact on the environment. Environmental policies are in place to ensure corporate social responsibility including the reduction of waste and carbon emissions to ensure compliance with the Climate Change Act 2009 and the Scottish Governments emissions targets.

10 SUMMARY

- 10.1 As a consequence of Police and Fire Reform the new Scottish Fire and Rescue Service came into being on 1st April 2013.
- 10.2 The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 makes provision for the appointment of a Local Senior Officer who will have responsibility to oversee the provision of local service delivery on behalf of the Chief Officer of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.
- 10.3 To ensure effective local scrutiny and engagement responsibilities the Local Senior Officer has a responsibility to develop a Local Fire and Rescue Plan in partnership through engagement with Perth & Kinross Council.
- 10.4 The Local Fire and Rescue Plan is one element of a wider national framework, which underpins the Scottish Governments purpose of creating a more successful country incorporating Scotland Performs, the Perth & Kinross Single Outcome Agreement / Community Plan 2013-2023 and the outcomes of the review into Community Planning.
- 10.5 The Local Fire and Rescue Plan for 2014-2017 is being developed into a final version following a process of strategic assessment supported by local engagement and consultation to determine local outcomes and priorities. The plan will ensure that the fire and rescue service makes a positive contribution to the delivery of integrated services that are more cost effective whilst securing positive community outcomes and risk reduction.

11 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 No background papers, as defined in Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

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PERTH & KINROSS LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN 2014-2017

APPENDIX 1: CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT – SUMMARY REPORT

INTRODUCTION

This report outlines the feedback that was received from the local consultation and engagement events that were facilitated by SFRS. This is intended to give elected members of the Community Safety Committee an overview of the responses received from both the focus group engagement events that were facilitated locally and public consultation survey. The key proposed amendments to the draft Perth & Kinross Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17 are also detailed.

FOCUS GROUP ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

A series of engagement events were facilitated to consult on the draft plan. This included a local managers meeting with the LSO where they were asked to engage with each of their respective staff groups to consult on the draft plan and provide feedback. The LSO also facilitated specific meetings for staff representatives / Trade Unions.

Three half-day focus group events were held at SFRS Training and Development Centre in Perth on Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th February for elected members, community planning partners and community based groups. At each of these events the draft plan was reviewed in sections to obtain feedback to establish whether stakeholders agreed, disagreed or suggested that we add or amend the contents. This was intended to improve the plan and enable it to better reflect local conditions and our communities' voice.

Figure 1: Presentation slide from Focus Groups Engagement Events

Consultation Feedback

In relation to each of the following sections of the draft local plan, do you agree, disagree or suggest we add / amend the contents?:

- Foreword, Introduction, Strategic Assessment, Local Operational Assessment and Perth & Kinross Risk Profile? (Pages 1-6) **10 mins**
- Priorities, Actions and Outcomes 1-7: Explanation of each priority, Alignment to Strategic Aims and other local plans, Activities for achieving priority, method of adding value to staff / communities? (Pages 7-13) **5 mins each priority**
- Achieving Local Outcomes, Review, Contact Us, Glossary of Terms? (Pages 14-16) **10 mins**
- Local Plan Public Consultation Survey **20 mins**

A strategic overview and local context was given in the form of a presentation followed by SFRS managers facilitating discussions with groups at each table and gathering feedback from the stakeholders that attended. The comments / feedback gathered have been used as part of the wider review to determine proposed amendments to the draft plan.

At the conclusion of each of these events, participants were asked to complete a local plan consultation survey which were collated and sent for analysis by SFRS Performance and Strategic Planning Department.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION SURVEY

A total of 18 responses were received from our local public consultation survey, 17 of which were from the focus group engagement events and a further response was received via an email with voicemail attachment. From these, 11 (61%) were from stakeholders representing organisations and 7 (39%) were individual responses.

A series of questions are asked within the survey where stakeholders make a tick box selection from 1 to 5 for each question / statement to reflect their views with 1 indicating that they fully agree, 3 – neither agree nor disagree through to 5 – don't agree.

In general, the stakeholders who responded were supportive of the draft plan with key points noted for improvement in the following sections:

- The glossary of terms explains language and terms used fully
- Where abbreviations are used, these are explained
- The priorities align with the Local Authority Single Outcome Agreement (SOA)
- It is clear how the fire and rescue service are held to account for their performance in the local area
- I know how to contact the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for non-emergency advice

It was noted that all respondents scored from 1 to 3 (fully agree – neither agree nor disagree) for each of the seven local priorities indicated in the draft plan. Also strong responses were received indicating agreement / satisfaction of SFRS local service delivery in the following sections of the survey:

- It is clear how the fire and rescue service will achieve each priority
- Prevention through education, advice and engagement is and should continue to be the key focus of our work and the local fire and rescue service plan
- Our priorities are sufficiently focused on improving safety
- We are adequately focused on equality in communities
- I have confidence in the Fire and Rescue Service in my area
- I am satisfied with the Fire and Rescue Service in my area

In addition to this 44% of the stakeholders indicated that they had received a free HFSV to which all rated this service as being excellent.

The local feedback received indicated higher rates of approval in almost every area of the survey in comparison the averages obtained across all 32 local authority areas in Scotland.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT LOCAL PLAN

From this feedback it is proposed to amend the draft plan to enable the inclusion of the following key areas to improve the contents and meet stakeholders' expectations from the local consultation and engagement process:

- Forewords from the Convener and LSO to reflect the 'new landscape' of local governance and accountability through Community Planning Partnership arrangements
- Additional text within the Introduction section of the plan to provide more detail of how the local plan will link to Community Planning Partnership structures within Perth & Kinross
- Additional text within the Local Risk Profile section of the plan to provide clearer links to our Perth & Kinross Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement 2013 – 2023 outlining our shared Local Outcomes and Strategic Objectives
- Review of service generic terminology to simplify this and improve understanding supplemented with the use of relevant pictures and graphs where applicable.
- Similarly, providing explanations of additional terms within the Glossary of Terms section where applicable
- Provide a local contact telephone number and postal address within the Review and Feedback sections

These proposed amendments will be included within the final draft version of the Perth & Kinross Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17 that will be presented for approval at a forthcoming meeting of this committee.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED



LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN FOR PERTH & KINROSS

2014-2017

Draft for Consultation

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Foreword

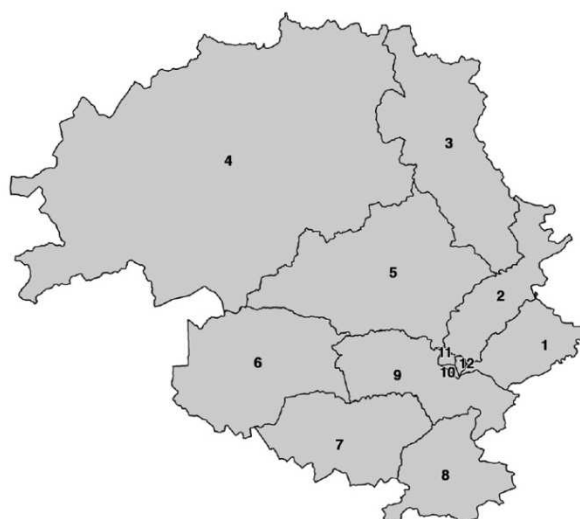
Welcome to the Scottish Fire & Rescue Services (SFRS) Local Fire and Rescue Plan for the Local Authority Area of Perth and Kinross. This plan is the mechanism through which the aims of the SFRS's Strategic Plan 2013 – 2016 are delivered to meet the agreed needs of Perth and Kinross's communities.

The Plan sets out the priorities and objectives for the SFRS within Perth and Kinross for 2014 – 2017 and allows our Local Authority partners to scrutinise the performance outcomes of those priorities. SFRS will continue to work closely with our partners in Perth and Kinross to ensure we are all "Working Together for a safer Scotland" through targeting risks to our communities at a local level.

The Local Fire and Rescue Plan and its associated action plans are aligned to the Community Planning Partnership structures within Perth and Kinross. Through partnership working we will deliver continuous improvement in our performance and effective service delivery in our area of operations.

The SFRS will continue to use data analysis techniques to identify risk and to ensure resources are allocated to the point of need within our communities. While considering the strategic priorities of the SFRS we will develop local solutions to local needs and ensure equitable access to Fire and Rescue resources. Through our on-going involvement with local community safety groups in Perth and Kinross we will continue to develop our understanding of local needs and proactively seek out consultation opportunities with all sections of the community. Using this approach we will ensure that the service we deliver is driven by consultation, in line with public expectations and helps to build strong, safe and resilient communities.

1	Carse of Gowrie
2	Strathmore
3	Blairgowrie and Glens
4	Highland
5	Strathtay
6	Strathearn
7	Strathallan
8	Kinross-shire
9	Almond and Earn
10	Perth City South
11	Perth City North
12	Perth City Centre



Introduction

The Scottish Government provides an overarching vision for public services that focuses on the creation of a more successful country, with opportunities for all through a sustainable increase in economic growth.

This direction is supported by Strategic Objectives to make Scotland a wealthier & fairer, smarter, healthier, safer & stronger and greener place. Through a concordat between the Scottish Government and the Convention for Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), the Strategic Objectives have been expanded into Local Single Outcome Agreements which include indicators and targets that provide the framework for how Local Authorities and their Community Planning partners such as the SFRS will deliver services.

The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 provides the statutory basis for the SFRS to deliver a range of core services and functions that means while the service is ready to respond to fire and other emergencies, it also maintains a strong focus on prevention and protection arrangements to ensure the safety of our communities. The associated Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013 sets the overarching strategic direction for the SFRS in the delivery of its services to the communities of Perth and Kinross.

The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 requires local plans to contain:

- Priorities and objectives for SFRS in connection with carrying out duties in the local authority's area of SFRS's functions
- The reasons for selecting each of those priorities and objectives
- How SFRS proposes to deliver those priorities and objectives
- In so far as is reasonably practicable, outcomes by reference to which delivery of those priorities and objectives can be measured
- How those priorities and objectives are expected to contribute to the delivery of any other relevant local outcomes which are identified by community planning
- Such other matters relating to the carrying out of SFRS's functions in the local authority's area as SFRS thinks fit.

Strategic Assessment

A strategic assessment for the SFRS's activities in Scotland established the type, frequency and impact of incidents that we attend. With this assessment in place the Local Senior Officer for Perth and Kinross can effectively identify key priority areas for the SFRS to target its resources at a local level.

National Assessment

The Scottish Government within their National Performance Framework have identified 16 National Outcomes they wish to achieve. Through delivery of this Local Plan the SFRS in particular will contribute to the following Outcomes:

- **National Outcome 1:** We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe.
- **National Outcome 4:** Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.
- **National Outcome 6:** We live longer healthier lives.
- **National Outcome 8:** We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.
- **National Outcome 9:** We live our lives safe from crime disorder and danger.
- **National Outcome 12:** We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.
- **National Outcome 15:** Our people are able to maintain their independence as they get older and are able to access appropriate support when they need it.

The priorities for the SFRS have been laid out in the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013 with the following Strategic Aims defined within the Strategic Plan 2013-2016:

Strategic Aim 1: Improve safety of our communities and staff

Strategic Aim 2: More Equitable Access to Fire and Rescue Services

Strategic Aim 3: Improved outcomes through partnership

Strategic Aim 4: Develop a culture of continuous improvement

Equality Assessment

On 30 April 2013, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service published its Equality Outcomes, in compliance with the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012. The SFRS Equality Outcomes are;

Outcome 1: People from all Scotland's community groups feel confident in contacting the Fire and Rescue Service for advice and information on relevant non-emergency issues.

Outcome 2: Disabled, LGBT, BME, older people and people from minority faiths are aware of the services provided by the SFRS, particularly how these can be adapted to meet their own individual needs.

Outcome 3: People from all Scotland's community groups feel safer in their homes and on our roads.

Outcome 4: Establish the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service as an employer of choice for people across protected characteristics.

Outcome 5: Provide a positive and healthy workplace culture that welcomes, embraces and develops people from across all protected characteristics.

Outcome 6: People from across all communities are enabled to live lives free from hate crime, harassment and domestic abuse/violence.

Outcome 7: Gypsy Travellers and migrant workers are safer, better informed and confident in Scottish Fire and Rescue Service engagement.

Local Assessment

The local assessment addresses issues relevant to the local area. Through analysis of data, partnership working and consultation, local improvement and demand reduction plans can be developed to ensure positive outcomes and results are achieved.

The key priority areas in Perth and Kinross that are considered in the Local Assessment and those that action plans will be developed for are:

- Local Risk Management and Preparedness
- Reduction of Dwelling Fires
- Reduction in Fire Fatalities and Casualties
- Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting
- Reduction of Fires in Non Domestic Property
- Reduction in Casualties from Non Fire Emergencies
- Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Local Operational Assessment

Performance Indicator	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	3 year average	Trend
All deliberate primary fires	26	53	31	37	↓
All deliberate other building fires	8	9	13	10	↑
All deliberate secondary fires	158	131	83	124	↓
All accidental dwelling fires	135	112	114	120	↓
All accidental other building fires	61	63	55	60	↓
All fatal fire casualties	0	1	1	1	↓
Non-fatal fire casualties excl. precautionary checkups	19	24	25	23	↑
Non-fatal fire casualties incl. precautionary checkups	20	25	29	25	↑
Special Service RTCs	113	77	106	99	↓
Special Service flooding	97	42	57	65	↓
Special Service extrication	11	13	16	13	↑
Special Service 'others'	236	207	142	195	↓
False Alarm: AFAs	1216	1195	1141	1184	↓
False Alarm: Good Intent	289	240	201	243	↓
False Alarm: Malicious	33	45	34	37	↓

Local Risk Profile

Perth and Kinross is an area which lies in the heart of Scotland and covers an area of 5,286km². There are a total of 12 local council wards within Perth & Kinross area. It borders onto the Aberdeenshire, Angus, Dundee City, Fife, Clackmannanshire, Stirling, Argyll and Bute and Highland council areas. Perth is the administrative centre for the area.

Perth remains a key transport hub for journeys by road and rail throughout Scotland. The M90 motorway runs south from the city to Edinburgh; the A9 road connects it to Stirling and Glasgow in the south west and Inverness in the north. Other major roads serving the city include the A85 to Crieff and Crianlarich (and ultimately Oban), the A93 to Blairgowrie and Braemar, the A94 to Coupar Angus and Forfar and the A90 to Dundee and Aberdeen.

Population Profile: Perth & Kinross has a population of 147,780 which is nearly 3% of the Scottish population. In the last three years the population has increased by approximately 4% and in the next three years the population is projected to increase by approximately 5%. Perth City is the largest populace within Perth and Kinross and has a population of approximately 45,000. Perth and Kinross has an average population density of 28 persons per square kilometre; this is considerably lower than the Scottish average of 67 persons per sq km.

Economy: The strength of the economy in Perth and Kinross lies in its diversity, with a balance of large companies, the public sector, a broad range of small and medium sized enterprises and many self-employed business people. The development in renewable energy, insurance, manufacturing, leisure, health and transport is stimulating employment. The largest employer in the city is Perth & Kinross Council which employs approximately 6,000 people. Other main employers include NHS Tayside, Scottish and Southern Energy, Aviva and Perth College UHI (University of the Highlands and Islands). The leading international transportation company, Stagecoach Group also has its global headquarters in the city. Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service are both employers in the area that employ 300 or more staff.

Deprivation Profile: The claimant count unemployment rate in Perth & Kinross is 2.9% - This is lower than Scotland as a whole. In Perth & Kinross, 5% of the claimant count unemployed has been out of work for more than a year, compared to the Scotland average of 13%. The total population of Perth & Kinross has increased by 7% since 2001 [Scotland has increased by 2%]. The employment rate in Perth & Kinross is 79%. This is higher than the Scottish average of 75%. Compared to Scotland, there are a higher per cent of jobs in the retail and wholesale sectors, and hotels, and a lower per cent in the public sector and other services.

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2009 subdivides Scotland into 6,505 data zones from 1 being most deprived to 6,505 being the least deprived with an average population of 750 within each zone. 6 of Perth & Kinross's 175 data zones (3.4%) are found in the 15% most deprived data zones in Scotland, compared to 9 (5.1%) in 2006 and 3 (1.7%) in 2004. 75% of data zones in Perth & Kinross are in the 50% least deprived and similar patterns are seen on all the domains except for the access domain. The 20% most deprived data zones in Perth & Kinross are mainly found in Perth, Crieff and Blairgowrie.

Key Partnership Arrangements: Community Planning arrangements are well embedded locally with the SFRS being one on the many key partners who contribute effectively toward the local outcomes detailed within the Perth and Kinross Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2023. Home Safety and Community Resilience Planning are two of the main priorities that the SFRS directly contribute towards, however the SFRS also indirectly contributes towards a number of the other priorities detailed within the Community Plan. Locally at ward level, SFRS is represented at each of the Local Community Planning Partnerships and utilise a combination of full-time and part-time Firefighters as well as a number of dedicated local managers to provide an effective prevention and intervention service.

Priorities, Actions and Outcomes

1. Local Risk Management and Preparedness

The SFRS has a statutory duty to reduce the risks to our communities to make certain that they receive the best possible service. The management of risk within our community means:

- Identifying the risks to the community which fall within the scope of responsibility of the SFRS.
- Undertaking a process to prioritise these risks.
- Ensuring that appropriate Local and National resource capability and trained Fire Service personnel are in place to address them.

Aligns to:

- Strategic Aim 1: Improve safety of our communities and staff
- Strategic Aim 2: More Equitable Access to Fire and Rescue Services
- Strategic Aim 3: Improved outcomes through partnership
- Strategic Aim 4: Develop a culture of continuous improvement
- Perth and Kinross Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2023
- Tayside Local Resilience Partnership including our Community Risk Register

We will achieve it by:

- We will ensure that our station personnel are familiar with the operational risks within the Perth and Kinross area by carrying out regular inspections in accordance with our duties in the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005.
- We will ensure that identified development needs are addressed in order to maintain a competent workforce.
- We will provide appropriate development opportunities to ensure that personnel possess the necessary skills to respond to foreseeable risks within the community.
- We will maintain a succession plan to ensure the provision of established crewing levels at all stations in Perth and Kinross.
- We will ensure dynamic monitoring of availability of personnel and resources in order to provide appropriate emergency response cover within the Perth and Kinross area.
- We will work with partner organisations and agencies to ensure effective response plans are developed for identified risks and ensure that we fulfil our statutory duties in relation to the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.
- Provide support and information to premises in relation to fire safety and other good practice that will reduce unwanted fire signals from automatic fire alarm systems.
- Youth diversionary activities to educate and prevent target groups from fire setting behaviour to reduce unwanted calls.

In doing so we will add value by:

- Keeping our staff and members of the public safe should any incident occur.
- Reducing the financial burden and disruption caused to our communities when emergencies occur.
- Proactively helping the wider community by preventing emergencies and planning to mitigate their effects when they occur.

2. Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires

Primary fires accounted for 18% (1534) of all incidents during 2007 – 2012 (8662) within the Perth and Kinross area. Approximately 43% of all primary fires are dwelling fires (fires in the home). Whilst it is pleasing to see a downward trend in the number of primary fires within the Perth and Kinross over the past 5 years largely due to our Community Safety Engagement and Fire Safety Enforcement activities, because of their very nature, dwelling fires still pose the greatest risk to life.

A common cause of dwelling fires is cooking practices, with over 28% of dwelling fires in Perth and Kinross starting in the kitchen area. This trend is common throughout Scotland and there is also evidence that alcohol continues to be a contributory factor.

Analysis has identified that Perth City Centre, Perth City North, Strathmore and Blairgowrie & Glens ward areas account for the largest proportion of dwelling fires in Perth and Kinross and the highest percentage of people who are considered to be more vulnerable from fire. This includes older people, those people who are in poor health, and people who live in areas considered to be deprived as defined by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD).

Vulnerable members of society are to be found in all areas of the community and this group will be a firm focus of our prevention activities. We will continue to provide education and support through our Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) Service, provide free smoke alarms and work with our partners to improve the overall health, safety and wellbeing within our communities.

Aligns to:

- Strategic Aim 1: Improve safety of our communities and staff
- Strategic Aim 2: More Equitable Access to Fire and Rescue Services
- Strategic Aim 3: Improved outcomes through partnership
- Strategic Aim 4: Develop a culture of continuous improvement
- Perth and Kinross Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement 2013 – 2023

We will achieve it by:

- Home Fire Safety Visits incorporating a wider 'Home Safety' partnership theme.
- Information sharing with partners to identify and target those with risk.
- Promotion of the wider use of sprinkler systems in domestic housing stock.

In doing so we will add value by:

- Promoting confident and safer communities where residents feel positive about where they live.
- Reducing the personal and social impact of fire on our communities through helping people to be safe in their homes in Perth and Kinross.
- Reducing the potential financial burden on Perth and Kinross Council through home safety education and support to tenants.

3. Reduction in Fire Casualties and Fatalities

There are a number of issues that play a significant role in the number of fire casualties and fire fatalities encountered within Scotland. Most fire casualties and fire fatalities tend to occur in dwelling fires where issues such as alcohol consumption, smoking prevalence and mental health are all recorded as key contributory factors. Other contributory factors are the high levels of deprivation and other social issues such as the number of people living alone, the projected increase in the number of older people and the number of people receiving social care or care in the community.

Only through effective partnership working can vulnerable people within our communities be identified and then given the help and support that the need to keep themselves safe.

Aligns to:

- Strategic Aim 1: Improve safety of our communities and staff
- Strategic Aim 2: More Equitable Access to Fire and Rescue Services
- Strategic Aim 3: Improved outcomes through partnership
- Strategic Aim 4: Develop a culture of continuous improvement
- Perth and Kinross Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement 2013 – 2023

We will achieve it by:

- Home Fire Safety Visits incorporating a wider 'Home Safety' partnership theme
- Information sharing with partners to identify and target those with risk.
- Promotion of the wider use of sprinkler systems in domestic housing stock.
- Provide support and information to businesses in relation to fire safety.
- Identify fire and rescue service staff with appropriate legislative fire safety skills to act as known contact points for local businesses.
- We will continue to ensure that all non-domestic premises are complying with the requirements of Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 and target our audits using a risk based approach.
- We will continue to work with our partners to target our resources in areas of greatest risk and deliver a range of interventions to make our communities

In doing so we will add value by:

- Helping people to be safe in Perth and Kinross.
- Reducing demand on other partner services such as local health care and social work partners.
- Assisting in referring vulnerable households to other service providers
- Reducing the impact and economic cost of casualty treatment on partner agencies.

4. Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting

Deliberate fire setting is a significant problem for the Fire and Rescue Service and is responsible for a very high number of all of the secondary fires that are attended in Perth and Kinross. Secondary fires are reportable fires that did not involve casualties or rescues. The main secondary fire categories are refuse, grassland and derelict buildings incidents.

There is a very close link between deliberately set secondary fires and other forms of anti-social behaviour. By continuing to focus our attention on deliberate fires this will reduce the burden on the FRS and partners and enhance community wellbeing.

Aligns to:

- Strategic Aim 1: Improve safety of our communities and staff
- Strategic Aim 2: More Equitable Access to Fire and Rescue Services
- Strategic Aim 3: Improved outcomes through partnership
- Strategic Aim 4: Develop a culture of continuous improvement
- Perth and Kinross Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement 2013 – 2023

We will achieve it by:

- Youth diversionary activities to educate and prevent target groups from fire setting behaviour.
- Home Fire Safety Visits incorporating a wider 'Home Safety' partnership theme.
- We will continue to work with residents and housing providers to address the issues of combustible materials stored within common closes/ stairwells which can often result in deliberate fire setting activity.
- Information sharing with partners to identify and target those with risk and undertake prevention initiatives (e.g. securing vacant premises, arrange uplift of combustible materials, etc).
- We will continue to work with the police and other agencies (where appropriate) to conduct joint fire investigations to establish the cause of fires.

In doing so we will add value by:

- Promoting safe and attractive communities in which people want to live.
- Diverting those persons away from anti-social behaviour by encouraging them to be good citizens.
- Reducing the adverse effects which deliberate fire setting has on peoples' lives within Perth and Kinross.
- Supporting the national focus towards prevention through early intervention.

5. Reduction of Fires in Non Domestic Properties

All workplaces and business premises are classed as non-domestic and come under the scope of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005. Due to the nature of the building and occupancy those that provide sleeping risk/ accommodation are seen as particularly high risk such as Hospitals, Care homes, Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) and self-contained sheltered housing.

High risk properties are audited on a yearly basis to ensure that the fire precautions within the property are to a suitable standard. For some buildings, joint inspections are carried out with other organisations.

Aligns to:

- Strategic Aim 1: Improve safety of our communities and staff
- Strategic Aim 2: More Equitable Access to Fire and Rescue Services
- Strategic Aim 3: Improved outcomes through partnership
- Strategic Aim 4: Develop a culture of continuous improvement
- SFRS Fire Safety Enforcement Framework 2013-2016
- Perth and Kinross Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement 2013 – 2023

We will achieve it by:

- Provide support and information to businesses in relation to fire safety.
- Identify fire and rescue service staff with appropriate legislative fire safety skills to act as known contact points for local businesses.
- We will ensure that high risk premise types as detailed within the SFRS Fire Safety Enforcement Framework 2013-2016 are subject to an annual audit.
- Promotion the wider use of sprinkler systems in non-domestic premises.

In doing so we will add value by:

- Assisting the business sector in understanding their fire safety responsibilities.
- Reducing the risk of fire and protecting the public when in buildings.
- Supporting business continuity and employment within Perth and Kinross.

6. Reduction in Casualties from Non Fire Emergencies

Non fire emergencies account for 16% of all incidents within the Perth and Kinross area. These incident types are very diverse and can range from dealing with spills and leaks to animal rescues and flooding. Over the past 5 years there has been a slight increase in the number of non fire emergency incidents within Perth and Kinross. This rise correlates with an increase in the instances of severe weather that have been experienced and the resulting work to make our communities safe from dangers such as loose masonry, unsafe icicles and flooding. Emergency planning and community based response is a priority that we will support the development of with partner agencies to improve resilience and capability within our communities.

A number of these calls relate to releasing people from lift cars in both commercial and domestic premises. Over the past 5 years there has been an increase in the number of callouts to domestic properties which have suffered burst pipes or other incidents which result in water leaks. Much of the damage caused at these incidents could have been dealt with adequately by the householder if they had known how to isolate their water supply therefore we will continue to work with key partners to provide information to the public and local businesses to reduce the impact of this.

Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) account for 6% of all incidents attended within the Perth and Kinross area. The mixture of urban and rural roads in the area lends itself to high speed collisions that require fire and rescue service assistance. By plotting these RTC's using mapping software we are able to identify RTC black spots in the local area and therefore consider our actions for reducing such risks in partnership with other agencies.

We will therefore continue to work with our various partners to raise awareness of road safety, target specific age groups with a focus on young drivers and ensure that we effectively contribute to reducing the occurrence of RTC's on our road network.

Aligns to:

- Strategic Aim 1: Improve safety of our communities and staff
- Strategic Aim 2: More Equitable Access to Fire and Rescue Services
- Strategic Aim 3: Improved outcomes through partnership
- Strategic Aim 4: Develop a culture of continuous improvement
- Perth and Kinross Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement 2013 – 2023
- 'Go Safe' - Scotland's Road Safety Framework for 2020

We will achieve it by:

- Support the delivery of the Safe Drive Stay Alive initiative whilst reviewing the target group and effectiveness of the event to continually improve outcomes.
- Consider other methods of communicating key road safety messages with partners.
- In partnership, support communities to develop and exercise local emergency plans.
- Home Fire Safety Visits incorporating a wider 'Home Safety' partnership theme.

In doing so we will add value by:

- Reducing RTC's will lessen the impact on local communities and reduce the costs to the NHS for the treatment of casualties.
- Reducing rehabilitation and welfare costs for casualties and employers.
- Developing positive attitudes to safety within high risk groups in our communities e.g. our young people in relation to road risk.

7. Reduction in Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Unwanted calls account for 54% of all incidents within the Perth and Kinross area, this is the highest proportion of all incident categories. The vast majority of unwanted calls attended within the district are Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) from fire detection systems in buildings. The trend indicates a continuing rise in the number of such calls. This rise appears to correlate with modern fire alarm systems becoming more complex in their design and installation. The rise in unwanted calls will therefore continue to place a burden on our resources and reduce time spent on other core activities such as Community Safety Engagement and training. There is also the financial impact of unwanted calls where it's estimated that the cost of dealing with each call is approximately £2000.

Other types of false alarm include malicious 999 calls and emergency calls made when a person genuinely believes that an emergency has occurred which requires the attendance of the fire and rescue service, and that belief subsequently turns out to be unfounded.

Aligns to:

- Strategic Aim 1: Improve safety of our communities and staff
- Strategic Aim 2: More Equitable Access to Fire and Rescue Services
- Strategic Aim 3: Improved outcomes through partnership
- Strategic Aim 4: Develop a culture of continuous improvement
- Perth and Kinross Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement 2013 – 2023

We will achieve it by:

- Provide support and information to premises in relation to fire safety and other good practice that will reduce UFAS from automatic fire alarm systems.
- We will identify premises with high instances of UFAS and ensure that they comply with the requirements of Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005
- Identify fire and rescue service staff with appropriate legislative fire safety skills to act as known contact points for local businesses.
- We will continue to educate young people and conduct appropriate youth engagement and diversionary activities to promote responsible citizenship and reduce fire related anti-social behaviour.
- We will continue to work with our partners such as police and schools to provide education to young people on the consequences of making hoax and malicious calls.

In doing so we will add value by:

- Promoting confident and safe communities where residents feel positive about where they live.
- Reducing time and money lost to local business in reacting to these incidents.
- Using community safety engagement events in domestic properties as an opportunity to engage with vulnerable households.

Achieving Local Outcomes

Following a process of identifying local risks within Perth and Kinross, priority actions to address them and expected outcomes have been set within this plan. Local risks were identified following considerations of political direction set by the Scottish Government, community needs identified through consultation and the operational resources and capacity of the SFRS.



Outcomes

The outcomes expected for the priority areas set out in the Perth and Kinross Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-2017 will be scrutinised by a committee of elected council members. Outcomes will be measured against each reduction set within this plan and those agreed between the SFRS and the Perth and Kinross Community Planning Partnership which are set out in the Perth and Kinross Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2023.

Review

To ensure this Local Plan remains flexible to emerging local or national priorities a review may be carried out at any time but will be reviewed at least once in its life time. A review may also be carried out if the Scottish Minister directs it or if a new Strategic Plan is approved.

Following a review the Local Senior Officer may revise the Plan.

Feedback

If you have something you'd like to share with us, you can get in touch in a number of ways:

- Use the feedback form on our website to send an email - www.firescotland.gov.uk
- Contact your local community fire station - details are listed on our website or in your local telephone directory.
- Contact (LSO) Area Headquarters on 01382 322222
- Write to us at the address at the bottom of this page.

We are fully committed to continually improving the service we provide to our communities and recognise that to achieve this goal we must listen and respond to the views of the public.

We use all feedback we receive to monitor our performance and incorporate this information into our planning and governance processes in order to continually improve our service.

We are proud to say that the majority of the feedback we receive is positive, and we are keen to hear examples of good practice and quality service delivery that exemplifies the standards of care that we strive to provide for the communities of Scotland.

In instances where our standards of service are questioned, we welcome the opportunity to investigate the circumstances, and are committed to correcting any lapses and using the learning outcomes to improve our future service delivery.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format or a version in another language please contact:

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Service Delivery Area North HQ, 19 North Anderson Drive, Aberdeen, AB15 6TP

Tel 01224 696666 Fax 01224 692224 or alternatively visit our website
www.firescotland.gov.uk

Glossary of Terms

Accidental: Caused by accident or carelessness. Includes fires which accidentally get out of control.

Casualty: consists of persons requiring medical treatment beyond first aid given at the scene of the incident, those sent to hospital or advised to see a doctor for a check-up or observation (whether or not they actually do). People sent to hospital or advised to see a doctor as a precaution, having no obvious injury, are recorded as 'precautionary check-ups'. Casualty figures do not include fatalities.

Deliberate: covers fires where deliberate ignition is suspected

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal (UFAS): is defined as an event in which the Fire and Rescue Service believes they are called to a reportable fire and then find there is no such incident. These can be Malicious, of Good Intent or caused by Apparatus. The False Fire Alarms recorded for our indicator are those caused by Apparatus, as these constitute a significant majority of False Fire Alarm incidents.

Fatality: a casualty whose death is attributed to a fire is counted as a fatality even if the death occurred later. Fatalities associated with Other Incidents can include attendance to assist Police or Ambulance colleagues when a person has been found who has committed suicide, for example. Often there is little we can do as a Service to influence this particular figure.

Primary Fires: includes all fires in buildings, vehicles and most outdoor structures or any fire involving casualties, rescues or fire attended by five or more pumping appliances.

Secondary Fires: These cover the majority of outdoor fires including grassland and refuse fires unless they involve casualties or rescues, property loss or if five or more appliances attend. They include fires in derelict buildings but not chimney fires.