

2020



LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN

Perth and Kinross

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Introduction

It is my pleasure to introduce the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's (SFRS) Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Perth and Kinross 2020-23. This sets out our priorities for improving community safety, whilst helping to address inequalities and enhancing the overall wellbeing of the communities of Perth and Kinross.

In developing this plan, we have been mindful of the range of activities the SFRS might have to undertake in Perth and Kinross on any given day. These might include fitting a smoke alarm in the home of a vulnerable person, visiting a school to educate young people on the dangers of fire, rescuing someone involved in a road traffic collision or dealing with flooding similar to what we have experienced in recent years.

The role of the SFRS is changing to meet some significant future challenges such as social change, climate change and terrorism. The plan therefore outlines how we aim to meet the challenges ahead while delivering on making Perth and Kinross safer through improved outcomes. This includes how we will go about broadening our safety role in the community. To do this, we will build on our proven track record in prevention work and focus our attention on reducing the wider safety risks associated with unintentional harm. This is mainly driven by social changes such as an ageing population, so protecting these types of vulnerable people from harm in the home, such as slips, trips and falls is a priority for us in this plan.

Early in 2020 we faced an unprecedented challenge in the form of a global pandemic. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, we dramatically changed how we worked so that we could continue to deliver an emergency service whilst keeping our staff and the public safe.

The pandemic is expected to have a lasting effect on society and this will change the way in which we deliver services in the long-term. The full implications are not yet known and this makes it difficult to make any far-reaching plans with certainty. As such we will keep the priorities of this Plan under regular review to ensure it remains relevant and appropriate.

The SFRS does not operate in isolation and this plan supports the crucial role of Community Planning in helping to deliver the vision, priorities and outcomes of the Perth and Kinross Community Planning Partnership (CPP) through the Community Plan (LOIP) and Locality Plans.

All community partners must work closely together to ensure we tackle inequalities and improve the wide range of outcomes for our communities of Perth and Kinross. Building on our successes through partnership working, we believe that we can make the communities of Perth and Kinross safer and more secure, and therefore contribute towards Perth and Kinross's vision of Creating a confident, ambitious and fairer Perth and Kinross, for all who live and work here.

The plan will be subject to regular review. This will allow us to be reactive to local needs and the changing circumstances of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Gordon Pryde

Local Senior Officer

National Context

Scottish Ministers set out their specific expectations for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2016. This provides the outline we should follow to ensure our resources and activities are aligned with the Scottish Government's Purpose and national outcomes.

Our [Strategic Plan 2019-22](#) has been designed to meet these national expectations. Set against a complex and evolving backdrop our Strategic Plan encapsulates our mission, values and our strategic outcomes and objectives.



To ensure we can prevent the worst from happening and to be fully prepared to respond should we be called, we need to be aware of any new changing risks which threaten the safety of communities or the workforce. When developing our most recent plan, cognisance was given to: our changing population and the forecasted rise in over 75s; doing what we can to balance social and economic inequality; climate change and the devastating impact the inclement weather can have on peoples' lives and livelihoods; and the threat of terrorism.

Our Strategic Plan is supported by a three-year Strategic Plan Programme which provides details on all the activities we intend to carry out to successfully achieve our ambitions. The Programme informs our Annual Operating Plan, which provides specific detail on the actions we carry out each year, and from which our performance is scrutinised.

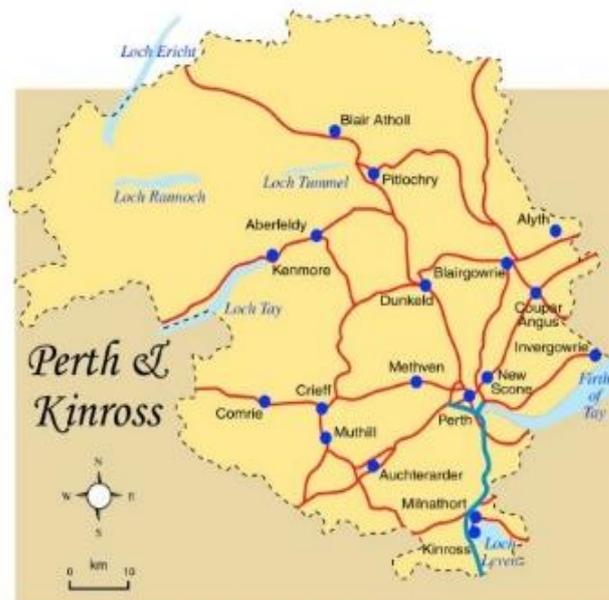
This Plan is a statutory Local Fire and Rescue Plan. It sets local direction to meet the strategic outcomes and objectives outlined above. It also demonstrates how we will contribute to Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs).

Local Context

About Perth & Kinross

Perth & Kinross covers an area of 2,041 square miles, has a population just over 151,000 and 70,000 households. The population is concentrated primarily within the eight main towns and has varied geography which means that there are clearly distinct communities within our area which have their own challenges and profiles. This comprises 12 council ward areas supported by 40 Elected Members.

The population is projected to increase by 32% by 2035, but the make-up of the population will see considerable change. Those aged 75+ are projected to almost double over the next 15 years, from 14,406 to 27,250, those aged 85+ are projected to more than double from 4,027, to 10,651 by 2037. We therefore face real challenges to service delivery, including an increased demand, an increase in in-migration and an ageing population. Households are predicted to rise to 89,030 households by 2033.



Perth & Kinross, while generally a prosperous and successful area of Scotland, contains pockets of relative deprivation linked to unemployment, low incomes, access to housing and services, and poorer health outcomes. However, levels of deprivation within Perth and Kinross remain very low with six areas considered to be within the 15% most deprived areas in Scotland, these are located in North Perth City and Rattray in Blairgowrie.

About the SFRS in Perth & Kinross

The SFRS has fourteen community fire stations strategically located in Perth & Kinross. These stations provide prevention, protection and response services tailored to local needs and comprise of one Wholetime station, ten Retained Duty System (RDS) and 3 Volunteer Duty System (VDS) stations.

Our Wholetime station is crewed by full-time firefighters who work 42 hours per week in what is their primary occupation and undertake some 20 hours plus of training and community engagement activity. In contrast, our RDS and VDS stations are crewed by part-time firefighters who primarily work in other occupations. They attend one routine training night per week and respond by pager, to provide 24/7 on call operational cover.

Delivering our services, to meet local needs, when our stations are predominantly crewed by RDS firefighters can be quite challenging. So, they are supported by a Management Team and Community Action Team, who work alongside Community Planning Partners to help plan, coordinate and deliver activities for improving the safety and wellbeing of our communities in Perth & Kinross.

About Community Planning in Perth and Kinross

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires planning partners to come together in Perth & Kinross to form a Community Planning Partnership (CPP), and focus on improving local outcomes in the Perth & Kinross area through a strong and inclusive partnership approach.

The Perth & Kinross Community Plan (LOIP) sets out the outcomes which the Perth & Kinross CPP will prioritise for improvement and through five locality action plans, focus priorities on the geographical areas of Perth & Kinross that experience the poorest outcomes. [Community Planning](#)

As a statutory partner of the Perth & Kinross CPP, we will fully contribute towards improving the local outcomes in the Perth & Kinross Community Plan (LOIP) and help take forward the priorities in the locality action plans. Our work towards supporting this, sits within the context of the Perth & Kinross Local Fire and Rescue Plan, and along with other partner plans and strategies, the shared approach for improving local outcomes is illustrated in Diagram one below.

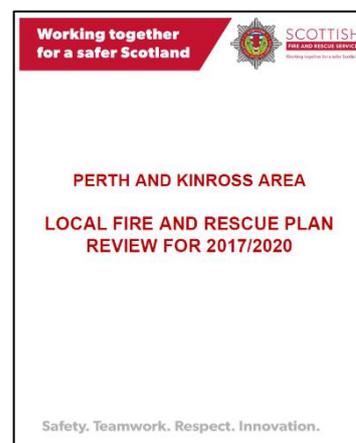
Diagram One – Shared Approach for Improving Local Outcomes in Perth & Kinross



About Local Scrutiny of our Performance in Perth & Kinross

As part of the process of scrutinising local Fire and Rescue service delivery, we are required to submit quarterly performance reports to Perth & Kinross Council's Housing and Communities Committee. The basis of these reports is to present information on the performance of the SFRS against the priorities contained within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Perth & Kinross.

We undertook a review of our performance during 2020, and along with an assessment of the opportunities for change and future challenges we face, this information provided us with the basis for developing the priorities set-out on the following pages of this draft plan. This review followed on from the production of the SFRS Strategic Plan 2019-22.



Local Priorities

1. Improving Fire Safety in the Home

Amongst the range of emergencies we attend in Perth & Kinross, fires in the home account for approximately 7% of operational demand. This however is the category of fire in which individuals are most likely to die or be injured and for that reason, improving fire safety in the home continues to be a priority for us.

There are over 70,000 homes in Perth & Kinross and on average, we attend, on average, 113 fires in households each year. High severity house fires in Perth & Kinross continue to be few, representing around 4% of all house fires and the rate of fire fatalities and casualties in Perth & Kinross is below the Scottish average. This relatively low frequency and impact of fire in the home reflects the focus on prevention and protection work and has contributed to making Perth & Kinross one of the safest places to live. Nonetheless, evidence indicates that it's the most vulnerable individuals in our communities and those that are living in certain geographical areas of Perth & Kinross, who are at higher risk from fire in the home and experience poorer outcomes. The elderly account for a large proportion all fire casualties; fires in the home tend to occur more frequently in the most deprived areas of Perth & Kinross, and the rural nature of Perth & Kinross gives rise to individuals living in social isolation who may be more vulnerable to fire. Furthermore, in Perth & Kinross there is a high percentage of migrant workers, who as a community have suffered the tragic consequences of fire in recent years.

Individuals who are at higher risk from fire are, more often than not, known to other agencies such as health, social care or criminal justice. This highlights the absolute need to share knowledge and information between services about those most vulnerable in our Perth & Kinross communities and to work better together to reduce their risk from fire in the home.

A home safety visit, where firefighters and partners visit people in their homes to provide safety advice and fit free smoke alarms or other appropriate safety support solutions, will continue to be our main tool to improve unintentional harm in the home. But a smoke alarm cannot prevent a fire – it can only alert the occupant that a fire may have started. The best way of reducing the potential for fires to occur is to influence and change the behaviour of residents and we will continue to concentrate our efforts on how to improve their home safety awareness.

Working with our partners and communities in Perth & Kinross we will:

- Share relevant information and analyse data, to identify individuals, households, communities and geographical areas most at risk from fire.
- Target our home safety visits, and fire safety education and advice at those who are identified as being most at risk from fire.
- Make it easier for our partners to refer vulnerable individuals who are at risk from fire.
- Educate children and young people on the risks from fire, making Perth & Kinross a safer place for the future.

Progress will be monitored by:

- Reviewing the number of fires in the home and their severity.
- Identifying the number and severity of fire fatalities and injuries.
- Analysing the number of high risk referrals we receive from partners.

The local outcomes we aim to improve are:

- People will feel safe, allowing them to become confident contributors within the community.
- Individuals are supported in their own communities with good quality services, so reducing inequalities.
- Children and young people are confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners and responsible citizens.

2. Improving Fire Safety and Resilience in the Business Community

Non-domestic fires tend to involve businesses, the mainstay of the Perth & Kinross economy. So ensuring businesses are better protected and more resilient to fire, and can continue to contribute to the Perth & Kinross economy, this is a key priority for us during these challenging economic times.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has a statutory duty under Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 (the Act) to provide advice and enforce fire safety regulations in most non-domestic premises. In Perth & Kinross, over 7,000 non-domestic premises are covered by the Act, which requires the duty holders to meet certain responsibilities in relation to maintaining safe business environments.

Our approach of working with, educating and advising duty holders on how to build and maintain safe business environments, combined with enforcing our powers to ensure compliance is working effectively, whereby in Perth & Kinross we have a relatively low rate of non-domestic fires.

We aim to build on this success by operating a risk-based fire safety audit programme, which is intelligence led and focusses our resources on auditing premises with high life risk and where there is greater likelihood of fire. These will include buildings important to our heritage and critical to our local infrastructure.

Working with our partners and communities in Perth & Kinross we will:

- Prioritise our Fire Safety Audits and Operational Reassurance Visits towards protecting non-domestic premises with the highest life risk and those where there is the greatest risk of fire.
- Support every business that has been affected by a fire, by undertaking a post fire audit of the premises and assisting their recovery in the quickest and most efficient way.
- Respond promptly to complaints over fire safety compliance in non-domestic premises.
- Advise on the suitability of fire safety provision in all new non-domestic premises under construction and existing premises undergoing major refurbishment.
- Engage with duty holders on how to meet fire safety compliance, to ease the burden on the business community.

Progress will be monitored by:

- Reviewing the number of fires in non-domestic premises and the type of premises involved in fire.
- Analysing the number and types of fire safety audits, and Operational Re-assurance Visits carried out across Perth & Kinross.
- Identifying the outcome of fire safety audits carried out in non-domestic premises.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of our responses to complaints over fire safety compliance in non-domestic premises.

The local outcomes we aim to improve are:

- Our natural and built environment is protected and enjoyed.
- Local businesses are safe and resilient from fire, creating a safe environment.
- We have a sustainable economy with excellent employment opportunities.

3. Minimising the Impact of Unintentional Harm

The Building Safer Communities Phase 2; National Strategic Assessment of Unintentional Harm defines these types of incidents as “unintentional physical harm that could have been predicted and prevented”. Unintentional harm in Scotland is heavy burden on the population in terms of death and injury, but is also a significant economic burden for public services. Annually, there are 1250-1400 deaths from unintentional harm in Scotland and almost 200 000 incidents each year resulting in a huge cost to the public purse. This can be reduced through more focus on prevention and education, targeted interventions and collaborative working.¹

Unintentional harm in the home (slips, trips and falls) has been identified as one of the most prominent issues and the associated risk profile closely matches those people that are most at risk from fire, in particular the elderly. It therefore makes sense that our work goes beyond making people safer from fire. We will position unintentional harm as a local priority, and work with our partners to make the most vulnerable people in Perth & Kinross safer from experiencing unintentional harm in the home, much of which is driven by social and economic inequality.

Out-with the home environment, we experience the impact of unintentional harm through our response to a range of non-fire related emergencies, and in Perth & Kinross, it is Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) which are the most significant cause of non-fire related deaths and injuries. Working with our community planning partners, we will ensure there is a co-ordinated and joined up approach to road safety prevention activity in Perth & Kinross. With a pooling of expertise and a range of activities, we will target the ‘at risk groups’ to reduce the number of deaths and injuries resulting from RTC’s.

Working with our partners and communities in Perth & Kinross we will:

- Continue to re-focus our Home Safety Visit Programme to include the assessment of unintentional harm in the home and wider health issues.
- Continue to develop our firefighters to recognise and respond to the risk factors associated with unintentional harm in the home.
- Share key data and jointly deliver targeted interventions, to reduce the incidence and impact of unintentional harm among vulnerable people in the home.
- Review referral pathways, in light of expanding our Home Safety Visit Programme to include unintentional harm in the home.
- In partnership, target road safety activities from early years to young drivers and other ‘at risk groups’.

Progress will be monitored by:

- Analysing the number of unintentional harm referrals we make to our partners.
- Monitoring the number of attendances at RTC’s and the frequency and severity of injuries arising from RTC’s.
- Reviewing the number of other non-fire related emergencies and the frequency and severity of injuries arising from these incidents.

The local outcomes we aim to improve are:

- Reduce the social and economic cost of unintentional harm and injury.
- Support vulnerable members within our communities to live independently within their communities.
- Ensure the safety and well-being of those living, working and visiting Perth & Kinross.

¹ The Building Safer Communities Phase 2: National Strategic Assessment of Unintentional Harm.

4. Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Around (60%) of all SFRS attendance demand in Perth & Kinross turn are related to false alarms, and those caused by Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA) are the most frequent attendance made by us. This is a significant drain on our resources and travelling to these incidents under blue-light conditions presents an undue risk to our firefighters and other road users due to an increased likelihood of vehicle accidents occurring.

As our stations in Perth & Kinross are predominantly crewed by RDS firefighters, there is also an indirect impact on the businesses who employ our RDS staff, through time lost due to them being released to respond to calls that inevitably turn out to be false alarms.

Whilst we encourage the use of AFA systems to save lives and protect buildings, more can be done to reduce the significant burden to us and businesses that Unwanted Fire Alarm Systems (UFAS) cause. A marked reduction in UFAS could release significant resources to deploy on more productive work that will deliver greater public value in Perth & Kinross, including the broader range of prevention work associated with tackling unintentional harm.

Evidence indicates that properties such as care homes, sheltered housing and hospitals contribute to the majority of UFAS in Perth & Kinross. Our approach to driving down the number of UFAS we attend in Perth & Kinross will focus on encouraging ownership of the issue by property owners/occupiers along with advice, engagement and support.

Working with our partners and communities in Perth & Kinross we will:

- Investigate the cause of every UFAS event and engage with the premises owner/occupier, to agree measures for preventing reoccurrence.
- Identify the premises that have persistent call outs due to UFAS, and work with the owner/occupiers to develop, implement and monitor UFAS demand reduction plans.
- Enforce formal action if necessary and focus on the owner/occupiers of premises that are generating unacceptable levels of UFAS, and are continually failing to take ownership of the issue.

Progress will be monitored by:

- Reviewing the number of UFAS and the type of premises generating them across Perth & Kinross.
- Evaluating the outcomes of occupier's demand reduction plans to review progress and identify and share good practice.
- Monitoring attendances at UFAS to ensure our attendances are based on an assessment of risk and demand.

The local outcomes we aim to improve are:

- Minimise the disruption to business and service continuity across Perth & Kinross.
- The SFRS has the capacity to contribute to a broader range of prevention work.
- Improved firefighter safety and community safety.

5. Reducing Deliberate Fires

Protecting the communities of Perth & Kinross isn't just about preventing accidental fires, we also work hard, as a partnership, to tackle the problem of deliberate fire-setting.

During 2019/20, there were 111 deliberate fires in Perth & Kinross. This is a continued decrease over the past three years. This reduction has brought us to a point where the rate of deliberate fires in Perth & Kinross is well below the Scottish average, however we still need to do more because these fires have a serious economic impact, can cause injury, property damage and divert firefighters from attending more serious incidents.

In Perth & Kinross, secondary fires (e.g. rubbish/bins and grass etc) make up around 70% of the deliberate fires we attend, with the remainder involving occupied buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures such as sheds (Primary Fires). Evidence indicates that youths are the biggest perpetrators of deliberate secondary fires and more often than not, it's the more deprived areas of Perth & Kinross that suffer the consequences.

Collaborative working is key to tackling deliberate fires. We will continue to work as an integrated part of Perth & Kinross Safer Communities team as a platform for engaging with a range of partners, including those in the community justice sector to reduce deliberate fires and help improve local outcomes.

When required, we will provide advice, guidance and support to make people and properties more resilient to the risk of fires being set deliberately. As seasonal periods arise, we will provide advice, guidance and support to make people and properties more resilient to fires being set deliberately. Seasonal campaigns enable us to plan and expand our existing capabilities to a greater scale. This contributes to a reduction in secondary fires. We recognise that education is the foundation to improve outcomes along with a strong focus on youth engagement.

Working with our partners and communities in Perth & Kinross we will:

- Share relevant information and analyse data, to identify hot spot areas most at risk from deliberate fire-setting.
- Target education, advice and other preventative measures at the hot spot areas identified as being most at risk from deliberate fire-setting.
- Deliver effective engagement programmes and interventions to prevent children and young people becoming involved in deliberate fire-setting.
- Engage with offenders and ex-offenders involved in deliberate fire setting to educate them of the risks, and to positively influence their behaviour.
- Take positive action to reduce opportunities for deliberate fire-setting at insecure, vacant or derelict buildings.

Progress will be monitored by:

- Reviewing the number, type and locations of deliberate fire-setting incidents within Perth & Kinross.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of our engagement programmes for reducing deliberate fire-setting.

The local outcomes we aim to improve are:

- Communities of Perth & Kinross are safe from the impact of deliberate fire setting.
- Support the promotion of active and responsible citizenship across Perth & Kinross communities.
- The SFRS has the capacity to contribute to a broader range of prevention work.
- Prevent and reduce re-offending.
- Our natural and built environment is protected and enjoyed

6. Effective Risk Management and Operational Preparedness

Risk management and operational preparedness is a key area of work for the SFRS. We work in partnerships to ensure that effective multi-agency response and recovery plans are in place to effectively deal with any event that will impact our communities.

The risks we face in Perth & Kinross depend on where people live and work. For example, an incident at an industrial site such as a recycling centre or agriculture and forestry/woodland where there is the threat of wildfires are risks in Perth & Kinross where we need to manage through effective partnership pre-planning and responding should an event occur.

Risks in Perth & Kinross include:

- Critical infrastructure, such as the Rail and Road networks that pass-through Perth & Kinross;
- The vast amount of waterways which support the fishing and leisure industry;
- Temporary event risks such as music festivals and sports competitions
- Significant Heritage and conservation sites, such as Scone Palace.

The national risks Scotland faces are continually changing and as a key public service, we have a statutory duty to prepare for and respond to any significant national threats or major emergencies. These include being able to deal with events such as widespread flooding, major transport accidents, natural disasters and terrorism. As our role broadens, so does the variety of incidents we attend. Developing greater flexibility to deploy crews, to take on a broadening prevention and response role will therefore be fully explored nationally and locally for safe and effective delivery.

Creating response plans to deal with the unique risk profile of P&K is paramount to manage and mitigate the impact of any event. Essentially fire crews are highly trained and empowered to deal with emergencies safely and effectively. Our fire stations are in a constant state of readiness working collaboratively, to deliver an integrated approach to emergency planning, contributing to overall community resilience.

Working with our partners and communities in Perth & Kinross we will:

- Identify and assess the risk to our community through the process of Operational Intelligence (OI) gathering and active involvement in the Local Resilience Partnership (LRP).
- Implement a training programme that matches the Perth & Kinross risk profile and maintains our capabilities for dealing with local, regional and national emergencies.
- Undertake targeted RDS firefighter recruitment campaigns, to raise community awareness of the role and it's overall value.
- Strengthen community resilience by engaging with them, to build their capabilities for managing the effects of emergencies as a community.

Progress will be monitored by:

- Reviewing the outcomes of our OI process and engagement with LRP's.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of our firefighter training programme and multi-agency emergency planning.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of our retained firefighter recruitment campaigns.
- Reviewing the number of people we train in CPR, and number of resilience hubs we engage with to enhance their capacity and capabilities.

The local outcomes we aim to improve are:

- Communities in Perth & Kinross will be safer, secure, vibrant and sustainable.
- Perth & Kinross will have an inclusive and sustainable economy
- We will improve the safety and wellbeing of our Communities and Firefighters.

Review

To ensure this Local Fire and Rescue Plan remains flexible to emerging local or national priorities a review may be carried out at any time but will be reviewed every three years. 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.

Contact Us

Write to: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
 Perth & Kinross, Angus and Dundee Area HQ
 Blackness Fire Station
 Blackness Road
 DD15PA

Phone: 01382 322222

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