

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**



**SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

Working together for a safer Scotland

LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN

ORKNEY

2018



ORKNEY
ISLANDS COUNCIL

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Introduction

I am delighted to present the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Local Plan for the Orkney Isles 2018.

The Plan translates the SFRS's strategic vision, as defined within the SFRS Strategic Plan 2016-19 into a set of priorities, actions and desired outcomes to improve community safety and wellbeing on the Orkney Isles.

It considers the changing role of the Fire and Rescue Service to meet significant future challenges such as the changing social demography and climate change while continuing to reduce the incidence of the more traditional emergencies we respond to such as fires and road traffic incidents.

In developing this plan we have listened to communities and partners on the Orkney Isles to ensure it meets the expectations of the people in how it aims to achieve the desired outcomes.

Specifically, along with trusted partners we will seek to exploit every opportunity to identify, support and protect those who are most vulnerable in our communities from harm while continuing to promote a safe and resilient society. Considering this, one of the main tenets of SFRS is to work with others and this Plan will express how it will continue to work with public, private and third sector partners to improve the safety and wellbeing of all people visiting, working and living on the islands.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service considers itself an important part of Local Planning Groups and the Community Justice Partnership on the Orkney Isles and we will continue to develop our understanding of the needs of people on the islands.

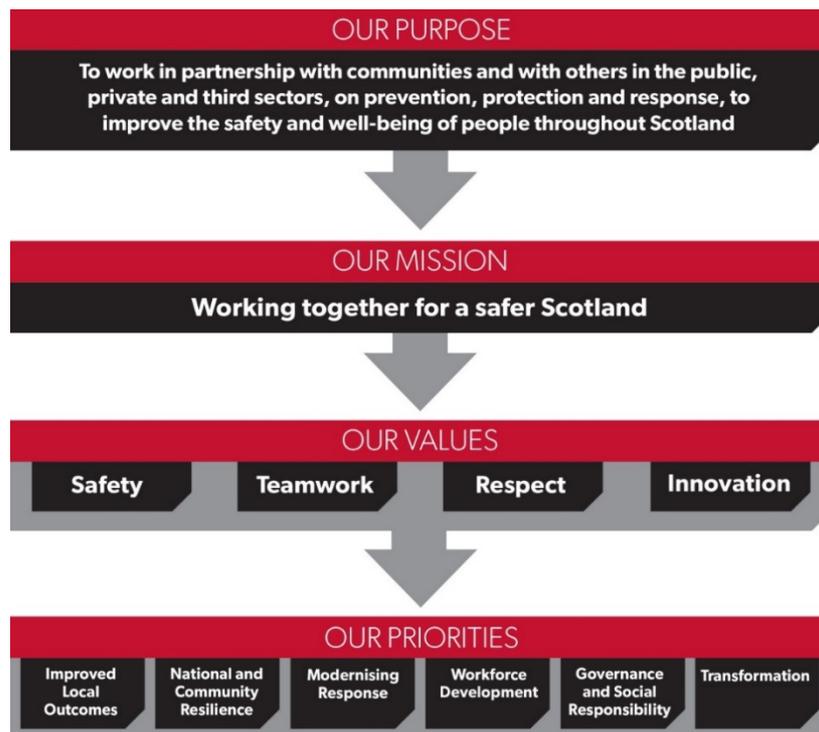
IAIN MacLEOD

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 2016-19 has been designed to meet these national expectations. Set against a complex and evolving backdrop our Strategic Plan encapsulates our mission, values and strategic priorities.



These have been shaped with due regard to the challenges we face and to what we need to achieve to be a highly effective, sustainable public service. Operating within a climate of significant financial uncertainty and public service reform means we need to transform how we operate. This will particularly include how we prepare for and respond to changing societal needs, the impact of climate change and the threat of terrorism.

Strong leadership, supported by sound governance and management arrangements are at the very core of our foundations. These arrangements will direct and provide assurance that we comply with our statutory responsibilities. In addition, they will provide Local Senior Officers with supporting mechanisms to deliver services specifically tailored to local needs.

Local Context

Community Planning Profile

The Local Fire and Rescue Plan and its associated action plans are aligned to the Orkney Community Planning Partnership structures within Orkney. 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 meet local needs and ensure equitable access to Fire and Rescue resources.

Through our on-going involvement with local community safety groups in Orkney 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.

Orkney is one of the 32 council areas of Scotland, a constituency of the Scottish Parliament and a lieutenancy area. The Orkney archipelago consists of approximately 70 islands lying 16 kilometres (10 miles) off the north coast of Scotland. Approximately 18 of these islands may be inhabited depending on the time of year.

The largest island, known as the “Mainland” has an area of 523.25 square kilometres (202 square miles) making it the sixth largest Scottish and the tenth-largest island in the British Isles. The largest settlement and administrative centre is Kirkwall.

Population figures from the 2011 census show some dramatic changes since 2001. The majority of the population inhabit the mainland and the two southern neighbours that are linked to it by causeways known as the Churchill Barriers. Orkney’s two main towns are Kirkwall (approximate population of 7500) and Stromness (approximate population of 2200), both of which are situated on the main island. Census data also shows general ageing and a slight increase in the population on the peripheral islands. The increase in population aged over 65 is the largest such increase in Scotland and will be very significant in planning future services.

	2001 Census	2011 Census	% change
Total population	19,245	21,349	10.9%
Population aged under 15	3,572	3,316	-7.2%
Population aged 15-64	12,453	13,814	10.9%
Population aged 65+	3,220	4,219	31.1%
Population aged 85+	405	479	18.3%
Number of households *	8,340	9,730	16.7%
Average household size (people)	2.28	2.05	-4.0%

Orkney's well established agriculture and fisheries sectors play a significant role in the regional economy. The extensive wind and marine energy resources of the county are of growing importance both locally and nationally as well as the introduction of a hydrogen manufacturing facility on the Island of Eday.

The other main industries are tourism and oil processing. Oil is brought ashore by a pipeline and shuttle tankers to the top tier COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazard) processing and distribution facility on the island of Flotta in Scapa Flow. Oil tankers regularly call at Flotta for loading and onward distribution of the oil fractions, as well as carrying out ship to ship transfers in Scapa Flow.

The islands are linked to mainland Scotland by flights and ferry services. Flights into Kirkwall Airport arrive direct from Inverness, Aberdeen, Sumburgh, Glasgow and Edinburgh. Passenger and freight ferry services sail from ports in Caithness and Aberdeen. There are also freight and passenger links to the Shetland Islands.

The north isles of Orkney are linked by an internal air service. The use of air ambulances is a normal part of island life. Regular ferry services link the smaller islands to the mainland.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service recognises the unique challenges that are faced in delivering services in remote and rural areas including populated islands and coastal communities. Twelve Retained Duty System (part time) Fire Stations provide the operational response capability for Orkney. The three mainland stations at Kirkwall, Stromness and St Margaret's Hope are staffed by up to fifty Firefighters. The remaining stations are one pump units on remote, isolated islands.

The provision of a Fire and Rescue Service in remote locations must be a partnership between the SFRS and the community which it serves. Recruitment and retention of retained staff is problematic in certain locations and can have an adverse effect on fire appliance availability. Operational Retained firefighters are supported by Wholetime District personnel: one Group Manager; one Station Manager; a Community Safety Advocate and two Training and Employee Development (TED) staff.

In relation to fire, statistics show that Orkney is a safe place to live, work and visit. The Service will not however become complacent and will continue to engage with stakeholders in order to drive down risks in the wider community whilst focusing on the vulnerable and most at risk.

Prevention and Protection in Orkney will be achieved through a process of community safety engagement and fire safety enforcement. Prevention is a clear process of working with our partner agencies to identify the most vulnerable individuals within our community. This will allow the Service to address the occurrence of dwelling fires which are more likely to involve vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, older single people, people living in areas of deprivation and people with drug and alcohol addictions. These high risk groups will be targeted through a collaborative approach with Social Services, support groups and healthcare providers to carry out Home Safety Visits, and a range of educational and diversionary programmes such as HI-FiReS, Firesetters Intervention Programme, Driving Ambition and the Safe Islanders event.

Protection will be achieved by carrying out Fire Safety Audits on all mandatory premises. These premises include all Care Homes, School Care Accommodation, Hospitals, Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and very high or high risk premises.

Performance Scrutiny

The Orkney Islands Local Fire and Rescue Plan is the basis on which SFRS performance is measured. This is done via the governance arrangements of The Orkney Island Council, specifically the elected members of the Police and Fire Sub-Committee. This Sub-Committee meets formally every three months.

To ensure performance monitoring is consistent with our strategy we will work with our managers, staff representatives and wider partners to develop a comprehensive set of performance measures against the outcomes, priorities and objectives outlined in this Local Fire and Rescue Plan.

These measures will form the basis of our future performance reports, which will enable us to continue to provide relevant, accurate, timely and consistent data and information to maintain effective scrutiny and challenge both at national and local levels.

The Local Senior Officer, or their deputy will attend the Police and Fire Sub-Committee and provide an update on progress against this Plan, overall performance, and any other matters deemed relevant to the delivery of Fire and Rescue matters on the Orkney Islands.

Local Priorities

1. Promoting Personal Safety and Wellbeing

Background:

Prevention of unintentional harm is a main tenet of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

In the context of this plan, unintentional harm, or injuries as a result of fires in the home, road traffic collisions, slips, trips and falls all impact on the health and wellbeing of the communities of the Orkney Isles.

The SFRS has a statutory duty to promote fire safety under Part 2 (Section 8) of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 (as amended) to include provision of information and publicity aimed at preventing fire and reducing deaths and injuries, restricting fire spread and advising on means of escape from buildings in our communities. Therefore this will remain as a central pillar within this priority but we will actively consider how it can contribute to other risks in the community.

In particular, with an ageing population and the desire to live longer and independently in your own home, the SFRS will look at how it can contribute to this by looking at 'home safety' in the broader context.

This can only be achieved through effective collaboration with partners and we will do so through the priorities contained within this Plan, aligned to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). The SFRS will work with partners on the Orkney Isles, ensuring that a robust referral process is established in line with the LOIP. This will ensure that the people who are most vulnerable from risk are provided with the necessary support to reduce that risk.

SFRS personnel on the Orkney Isles will continue to promote and conduct safety visits within the home, targeting those deemed to be most vulnerable from harm.

We will achieve it by:

- *Promoting, prioritising and undertaking Home Safety Visits to those who are deemed most vulnerable.*
- *Targeting our prevention activities to those who are deemed most vulnerable and at risk of harm.*
- *Working with partners to establish a robust information sharing and risk assessment methodology that will identify those most at risk.*
- *Supporting the LOIP.*

Performance Indicators:

- *The number of accidental dwelling fires.*
- *The number of accidental dwelling fire casualties and fatalities.*
- *The number of Home Safety Visits measured against the backdrop of risk.*
- *The number of Home Safety Visits referred to SFRS by partners.*
- *The number of casualties as a result of Road Traffic Collisions.*

Expected Outcome:

- *The Orkney Isles will be a safe place to live, work and visit.*

2. Non Domestic Fire Safety

Background:

All workplaces and business premises are classed as 'non-domestic' and therefore come within the scope of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005. This legislation places statutory duties on people responsible for these premises. Subsequently, SFRS has a statutory duty under Part 2 (Section 8) of the above act to enforce fire safety within these premises.

Fires in places of work, businesses and with service providers can have a devastating effect on local business, the local economy, employment and the provision of essential services. While there are a relatively small number of fires in premises of this type, due to the associated risks coupled with the statutory duty placed on the service to enforce the fire safety legislation, this priority will continue to focus on maintaining a low number of incidents of this type

Due to the nature of buildings and their occupancy, those that provide sleeping accommodation are seen as higher risk; such as hospitals, care homes and houses of multiple occupation (HMO). Sleeping risks are seen as a higher fire risk since most fatal fires occur at night when people are less vigilant and at their most vulnerable.

We will achieve it by:

- *Delivering the Fire Safety Audit Programme prioritising premises defined as 'high risk'.*
- *Engaging with, and supporting the business community to highlight their duties under the relevant fire safety legislation.*
- *Responding to concerns raised over fire safety compliance in non-domestic premises.*
- *Identifying fire trends in particular building types and conducting thematic audits.*
- *Auditing fire safety measures of non-domestic premises which have had a fire.*

Performance Indicators:

- *The number of non-domestic fires.*
- *The number of completed Fire Safety Audits measured against anticipated targets.*
- *The number of Post Fire Audits carried out.*

Expected Outcomes:

- *Businesses and duty holders better understand their responsibilities with regard to fire safety legislation.*
- *Non domestic premises are safer and therefore the people who reside, work and visit them are consequently safer.*

3. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Background:

An Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal (UFAS) is an incident where an automated fire alarm system activates due to something other than a fire and results in the mobilisation of SFRS resources. Incidents of this type, which are entirely avoidable, commonly arise due to incorrect positioning of detectors, poor maintenance or poor management.

Emergency calls initiated by UFAS account for a high percentage of all incidents attended by SFRS. Of these approximately 95% are established UFAS.

Over the four year period of 2012/13 to 2016/17, SFRS attended a total of 1058 emergency calls on the Orkney Isles. Of these incidents 646 were to false alarms, with UFAS accounting for 311 calls. Therefore, it is recognised that UFAS events were accountable for 29% of SFRS mobilisations over this timeframe.

The SFRS aims to reduce the impact of UFAS on service delivery and ensure that our resources are available for genuine emergencies. Evidence suggests UFAS has a detrimental impact on businesses, economy and our RDS Firefighters. Additionally, UFAS can prejudice the safety of occupants, who may not react correctly when the system responds to a real fire, if they have already experienced many false alarms.

As a result of this, the reduction of UFAS has been identified as a priority in this Local Plan.

We will achieve it by:

- *Identifying the cause of all UFAS and engaging with owner/ occupiers of the premises to consider how to prevent further events.*
- *Monitoring and identifying premises with high UFAS activity and subsequently applying the SFRS UFAS Policy where appropriate.*

Performance Indicators:

- *Reviewing the number of attendances at non-domestic premises and the type of premises generating Unwanted False Alarm Signals across Orkney.*
- *Evaluating the outcomes of occupier's Demand Reduction Plans to review progress and identify and share good practice.*
- *Reviewing our attendances at UFAS incidents to ensure our attendances are based on an assessment of risk and demand.*

Expected Outcome:

- *Disruption of local businesses and the impact on SFRS as a result of UFAS on the Islands will be reduced.*

4. Emergency Response Preparedness and Community Resilience

Background:

The ability to respond to emergencies effectively while promoting community resilience is a key area of work for SFRS. In the rural context, considering the operational service on the islands is provided by Retained Duty System Firefighters, this means that the service is provided 'by the community, for the community'.

The SFRS will continue to prepare for, and respond to major emergencies. The scope of such preparations may include responding to adverse weather events, natural disasters, chemical incidents or major transport incidents. It is essential that we have enough staff with the right skills in the right place at the right time to deliver our services when communities need them.

To achieve the above it is essential our Firefighters possess the skills, knowledge and expertise to respond to incidents which, by their nature can be varied in both their type and complexity.

A key aim for the service is to develop resilience within our communities and as our role broadens so does the variety of incidents we support. To ensure we are best placed to provide the broadening role, it is essential that the service continues to explore, develop and exploit opportunities to enhance community wellbeing and safety.

We will achieve it by:

- *Ensuring appropriate numbers of staff are recruited, developed and equipped to fulfil the purpose of meeting our current risk profile while being adaptable to changing circumstances.*
- *Ensuring all known local risk information is obtained, communicated and tested.*
- *Working locally with partner organisations to ensure effective emergency response plans are developed for identified local risks including local Business Continuity Plans.*
- *Fulfilling our statutory duties in relation to the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 by way of our contribution to Highland Local Resilience Partnership and North of Scotland Regional Resilience Partnership.*
- *Explore and adopt innovative ways of delivering our core services as well as expanding our contribution to the safety of the population.*

Performance Indicators:

- *Monitoring Retained Duty System establishment levels.*
- *Attending resilience working groups.*
- *CPR life-saving awareness skills delivered to communities.*
- *Operational Risk Visits completed.*

Expected Outcomes:

- *Keeping our staff and members of the public safe should an incident occur.*
- *Reducing the financial burden and disruption caused to our communities when emergencies occur.*
- *Proactively helping the wider community by contributing to preventing emergencies, planning to mitigate their effects when they occur, and by adding value through focus on prevention and protection.*

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 at least once 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

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 and our partners.

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

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

Write to: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
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