



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

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Report To:	THE BOARD OF THE SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Report No:	B/LSEC/02-15
Date:	26 MARCH 2015
Report By:	CHAIR, LOCAL AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Subject:	COMMITTEE UPDATE
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1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 To report to the Board on the meeting of the Local and Stakeholder Engagement Committee workshop held on 11 March 2015.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Board note the report.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The main matters considered by the Committee were:
- Development of Terms of Reference for Engagement Committee
 - Strategic Plan 2013 – 2016 Engagement Proposals
 - Briefing on Health and Social Care Integration
 - Update on SFRS/COSLA Meeting on Engagement

4 ISSUES DISCUSSED

Issue 1 Development of Terms of Reference for Engagement Committee

- The new Committee will require information flow and support from SLT and BST to properly examine and scrutinise engagement plans / activities.
- It is important that the Committee adds value to SFRS and considers how that value will be measured at end of year.

- Committees provide assurance to the accountable officer but it is not their primary role, which is performing a scrutiny function on behalf of the Board.
- Improved engagement is referenced in the benefits of reform and the Committee scrutiny programme should be able to examine the impact of SFRS engagement activity and suggest improvements.
- In the refresh of the SFRS engagement loop, there is a need to revise Board members role to contribute at a national strategic level with local authorities rather than just attendance at CPPs/ scrutiny committees.
- The new Committee should be able to make strong evidence based recommendations to the Board.
- The Terms of Reference should be honed down to a few key areas.

Issue 2 Strategic Plan 2013 -2016 Engagement Proposals

- A cross functional officer advisory group to support development of the Strategic Plan (SP) has been established and a sequence of engagement activities will be developed with the Committee as the SP develops. It is important that there is focussed input from members and regular dialogue with Committees on development of the Plan.
- A Stakeholder Register encompassing a communications log will be developed. Important that engagement on the SP and other initiatives is approached with a common narrative and that engagement activity is not undertaken on a piecemeal basis.
 - The service needs to be able to evidence community engagement in development of the SP.

Issue 3 Briefing on Health and Social Care Integration

- There are a number of advantages for SFRS in the development of this agenda including a real opportunity to focus and target communities and individuals at risk through shared intelligence, data and analysis. Joined up development and design of policy will also support joint agency working.
- SFRS at a national level will seek strategic engagement with SG to ensure involvement and influence within the Integration Scheme design.

- LSOs will participate in the consultation for creation of individual Integration Schemes.
- There is a real opportunity to link this agenda with the aims of reform. Members will continue to receive information on the design of the Integration Scheme and models for delivery.

Issue 4 Update on SFRS/COSLA Meeting on Engagement

- A meeting had taken place between representatives of SFRS and COSLA on 6 March. The tenor of the meeting was considered to be generally positive. Relationships with local senior officers were generally good although there were issues for local authorities regarding their ability to influence the national body and their perceived remoteness from national decision making. COSLA's focus to date had been on relationships with the Police and in order to avoid similar communication problems it was agreed to establish six monthly meetings between COSLA politicians and SFRS Board members with officers mirroring those arrangements. Arrangements for liaising with councils outwith COSLA would also need to be considered and it was emphasised that these initiatives did not supersede effective partnership working at local level.

5 LIST OF APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT

- 5.1 None.

6 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Papers for the meeting of the Local and Stakeholder Engagement Committee workshop held on 11 March 2015.

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