

## REPORT TO COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 2 SEPTEMBER 2021

### CONSULTATION RESPONSE– SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE, LONG TERM VISION

#### 1 Reason for Report / Summary

- 1.1 This report details Aberdeenshire Council's response to the Scottish Fire & Rescue Long-Term vision consultation.

#### 2 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Acknowledge Aberdeenshire Council's response to the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS) consultation which was submitted under delegated powers and following consultation attached as Appendix 2 to this Report (the Response).**

#### 3 Purpose and Decision-Making Route

- 3.1 The SFRS launched a short [consultation](#) seeking views on its long-term vision – a summary of which is detailed in Appendix 1. The consultation was open from 7 June to 18 July 2021. The document detailed four key principles that outlined how the SFRS would like to work in the future and its eight priorities for the next decade and beyond to make Scotland an even safer place to live, work and visit. Responses to the consultation will inform SFRS final vision document that will set out the future direction of the SFRS.

#### 4 Discussion

- 4.1 The formal consultation opened on 7 June 2021 via the SFRS [consultation hub](#) with a closing date of 18 July 2021.
- 4.2 SFRS is a key partner of the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership. As such, it was decided that Aberdeenshire Council would submit a response, led by the council's Corporate Policy and Strategic Community Planning Team. The survey was emailed to officers on 10 June 2021, with a response date of 23 June 2021. Responses were collated and submitted via delegated powers on 16 July, prior to the closing date of 18 July 2021.
- 4.3 Eight responses were received from officers within Roads & Landscape Services, Health & Social Care Partnership, Customer & Digital Services, Education Services and Area Teams. The collated response was considered by the council's Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) on 7 July 2021. As most answers were tick box responses, the Response reflects the views of the majority of respondents.

- 4.4 In terms of the Scheme of Governance, the Response was submitted by the Head of Customer & Digital Services following consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair, and main Opposition Spokesperson of Communities Committee.
- 4.5 In summary, Aberdeenshire Council finds the SFRS vision appropriate and comprehensive. The continued commitment to community planning and partnership working is welcome. The focus on addressing social and health inequalities and working towards stronger, more sustainable and connected communities over the next ten years aligns to the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) priorities. The Council also welcomes the focus on technology and digital skills, however, would request that consideration is given to preventing digital exclusion as a result of a greater reliance on technology.

## 5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 5.1 At its meeting on [7 October 2020](#), Full Council agreed a new set of six Strategic Priorities detailed in the undernoted table.

<b><i>Pillar</i></b>	<b><i>Priority</i></b>
<i>Our People</i>	<i>Education Health &amp; Wellbeing</i>
<i>Our Environment</i>	<i>Infrastructure Resilient Communities</i>
<i>Our Economy</i>	<i>Economy &amp; Enterprise Estate Modernisation</i>

This report supports the priorities of Resilient Communities and Health & Wellbeing.

- 5.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Financial			<b>X</b>
Staffing			<b>X</b>
Equalities			<b>X</b>
Fairer Scotland Duty			<b>X</b>
Town Centre First			<b>X</b>
Sustainability			<b>X</b>
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing			<b>X</b>

- 5.3 An integrated impact assessment is not required because this is a response to a consultation and does not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.
- 5.4 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a [Corporate Level](#):

- ACORP002 – Changes in government policy, legislation and regulation

## **6 Scheme of Governance**

- 6.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and had no comments to make and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.
- 6.2 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section D.4.2 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to the Committee's power to approve a Council response to any external consultation on any policy matter falling within the delegation of the Committee.

### **Ritchie Johnson Director of Business Services**

Report prepared by Moyra Stephen, Policy Lead  
Date 21 July 2021

### **List of Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Consultation document  
Appendix 2 – Response

## Appendix 1: Survey Questions

### Question 1:

To what extent do you think our Draft Long-Term Vision is the right future vision for SFRS?

- Strongly Agree                       Disagree                       Prefer not to say  
 Agree                                       Strongly Disagree

What could we do to improve the Draft Vision for you?

### Question 2:

Looking at the four strategic intents we've identified for achieving the long-term vision, to what extent do you agree with each of them?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Prefer Not To Say
Staff are safer, are better supported, are more satisfied and empowered					
Our communities are safer and their wellbeing is improved					
We are more adaptable in responding to changing risks across and between communities					
Our wider contribution to Scotland and our communities is recognised					

### Question 3:

Looking at the eight proposed priorities we've identified for achieving the vision, to what extent do you agree with each of them?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Prefer Not To Say
Our service delivery model will meet Scotland's changing needs					
We will be innovative in our use of technology, data and information to change how we work					
We will be an organisation that works in agile and smart ways					
We will invest in developing leaders throughout the Service and train our staff to the highest standards					
Partnership working will be at the core of how we work					
We will value different views and experiences					
We will be driven by a deeper understanding of the needs of our communities					
We will be a more environmentally sustainable organisation					

Question 4:

Are there any other comments you would like to make about our Draft Long-Term Vision?  
(Please enclose your comments on an additional sheet if needed.):

## **Appendix 2 – Aberdeenshire Council Response to SFRS Consultation**

**Question 1 – To what extent do you think the Draft Long-Term Vision is the right future vision for SFRS?**

Response submitted: AGREE

**Question 2 – What could SFRS do to improve the Draft Vision for you?**

Response submitted: Aberdeenshire Council finds the SFRS vision appropriate and comprehensive. The diagram in 7.1 is particularly helpful. The continued commitment to partnership working is welcome, however, there could be more clarity on the statutory requirement of the SFRS in terms of Community Planning. Aberdeenshire Council suggests the removal of the line on Page 6 that states ‘this is not to simply generate publicity for the Service’ as this line could be perceived as being superficial.

**Question 3 – Looking at the four strategic intents identified for achieving the long-term vision, to what extent do you agree with each of them?**

Responses submitted:

- 1 - Staff are safer, are better supported, are more satisfied and empowered:** Strongly Agree
- 2 - Our communities are safer and their wellbeing is improved:** Strongly Agree
- 3 - We are more adaptable in responding to changing risks across and between communities:** Strongly Agree
- 4 - Our wider contribution to Scotland and our communities is recognised:** Strongly Agree

**Question 4 – Looking at the eight proposed priorities identified for achieving the vision, to what extent do you agree with each of them?**

Responses submitted:

- 1 - Our service delivery model will meet Scotland’s changing needs:** Agree
- 2 - We will be innovative in our use of technology, data and information to change how we work:** Agree
- 3 - We will be an organisation that works on agile and smart ways:** Agree
- 4 - We will invest in developing leaders throughout the Service and train our staff to the highest standards:** Strongly Agree
- 5 - Partnership working will be at the core of how we work:** Strongly Agree
- 6 - We will value different views and experiences:** Agree
- 7 - We will be driven by a deeper understanding of the needs of our communities:** Strongly Agree
- 8 - We will be a more environmentally sustainable organisation:** Agree

**7. Are there any other comments you would like to make about the Draft Vision?**

Response submitted: Aberdeenshire Council welcomes the draft vision document which reflects the excellent work the SFRS have been doing and continue to do in terms of community planning and partnership working. At a local area level, the engagement and collaboration that Aberdeenshire Council has with SFRS is valuable and officers appreciate the needs of the community being reflected within the draft vision.

The focus on addressing social and health inequalities and working towards a stronger, more sustainable and connected communities over the next ten years are in line with two of the four Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership's (CPPs) Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) priorities – Health & Wellbeing and Connected & Cohesive Communities.

Aberdeenshire Council recognises the essential role the SRFS has in supporting council services in dealing with emergencies such as flood events, Road Traffic Accidents (RTAs) and other winter related emergencies as well as Home Safety Checks and Falls Prevention.

Aberdeenshire Council welcomes the focus on technology, innovation and data and looks forward to working with the SFRS and other partner organisations to increase digital skills and confidence within our communities whilst ensuring no one in our communities is excluded as a result of a greater reliance on technology.