

Highland Council

Community Safety, Public Engagement and Equalities Committee – 5 December 2013

Agenda Item	6ii
Report No	CPE 46/13

Ward Consultations Sessions and Progress Update on Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17

Report by Local Senior Officer for Highland – Area Manager Scott Hay

Summary

To provide an update to Committee Members on the recent Ward consultations sessions, forming part of the wider consultation on the creation of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17.

1. Background

1.1 Preparation of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) staff participated in a series of Ward Consultation sessions with colleagues from Police Scotland in October and November 2013. During these sessions, SFRS staff presented current operational activity levels and historical trends (2009-2013) for the following incident types:

- Accidental Dwelling House Fires
- Fire related casualties and fatalities
- Deliberate fires (including wildfires)
- Road Traffic Collisions
- Malicious Calls
- False Alarms

1.2 The key findings and outcomes identified that in a number of ward areas activity levels were either low or reflected a downward trend over the previous 3-year period. However, it was also recognised that in some areas where activity levels were a cause for concern, SFRS staff would continue to focus partnership delivered prevention and protection activities. This would support the strategic aims of a continued reduction in known risk and activity levels across the communities of Highland.

1.3 While attendance at a number of the Ward sessions was mixed, the SFRS values the opportunity to engage and consult with elected members, community councils and members of the public. The feedback was extremely valuable and will inform the development of the draft Local Fire and Rescue Plan for 2014-17.

2. Progress and Next Steps

- 2.1 The SFRS will extend this consultation over the coming months in partnership with Highland Council, Police Scotland and Highland Third Sector Partnership, to ensure a wider engagement with **all** key stakeholders. This is essential to ensure all local and sector specific concerns and priorities are captured and reflected in the development of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to:

- i. note and question the progress against this consultation update as well as the wider consultation process to support the creation of the Highland Local Fire and Rescue Plan for 2014-17; and
- ii. note that a draft of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for 2014-17 will be presented at a future Committee meeting.

Area Manager Scott Hay

Local Senior Officer for Highland

15 November 2013