

Scrutiny Lead for Police and Fire Service

Outline of Role

Under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 which created Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Local Authorities were given a new duty to engage with and scrutinise the performance of Police and Fire and Rescue Services, with new roles for elected members.

Highland Council will scrutinise services at both local and strategic level with the move to greater local scrutiny by local committees, and the strategic scrutiny role resting with meetings of the full Council. To support this, it is also necessary to appoint a Strategic Lead for Police and Fire matters.

The Strategic Lead for Police and Fire will:

- be the spokesperson for the Council on matters relating to Police and Fire and Rescue Services;
- be the liaison point for senior officers from the emergency services locally and also with services nationally;
- on behalf of the Council, take forward issues raised either strategically or within Local Committees;
- represent the Council on regional and national forums specifically set up to discuss Police and Fire matters. This currently includes: the H&I scrutiny leaders group; the North Forum for Police and Fire Services Scrutiny and the COSLA Police Scrutiny Conveners meeting.