

Agenda item	5
Report no	RC/012/18

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Ross and Cromarty Committee

Date: 2 May 2018

Report title: **Scottish Fire and Rescue Committee Performance Report for Q3 and Q4 of 2017-18**

Report by: Local Senior Officer for Highland

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update to Ross and Cromarty Committee Members on progress against the priorities outlined in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Committee Plan for Ross and Cromarty 2017-2018.

Priority areas are identified through a range of Intervention, Prevention and Protection activities which are delivered through partnership to reduce the risk to the communities of Ross and Cromarty.

The report also contains previously agreed information and performance data as requested by Area Committees.

2. Recommendation

- 2.2 Committee Members are invited to **comment on** and **scrutinise** the attached Ross and Cromarty Performance Report.

3. Ross and Cromarty SFRS Performance Report

3.1 The attached performance report provides the current figures for Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 of 2017/18 from the central Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) performance management database against the key indicators and timelines of previous reports.

3.2 In achieving the priorities within the Local Committee Plan for Ross and Cromarty 2017-2018 a number of activities are being progressed including: the delivery of free home fire safety visits (HFSVs) and post domestic incident response (PDIR) aimed at reducing dwelling house fires. SFRS continues to play an active part in the delivery of partnership safety initiatives including the Driving Ambition road safety programme and the reduction of fire-related antisocial behaviour through targeted youth engagement activities and thematic action plans.

3.3 Operational Incidents

Analysis of the detail behind the performance report for the Ross and Cromarty area shows mixed outcomes across the performance indicators during Q3 and Q4 2017-18 when compared with the previous reporting periods. However, it must be emphasised that the baseline figures for some indicators are very low and this can make meaningful statistical analysis challenging.

a. The occurrence of ten (10) Accidental Dwelling Fires attended by SFRS in Q3 and Q4 of 2017/18 is a one third reduction on the fifteen (15) attended in Q1 and Q2 of 2017/18. The Q4 figure also represents the joint lowest quarterly occurrence of such fires in the last five years.

Analysis of these domestic fires identifies: four (4) incidents which did not result in any damage; three (3) where damage was limited to the item first ignited; one (1) where damage was limited to one floor and two (2) where damage was limited to two floors.

Of the ten (10) fires: four (4) required no form of intervention by SFRS crews; three (3) only involved removal of an item from a heat source or disconnection of power; and three (3) were extinguished using a hose-reel jet.

These statistics suggest that 70% of the dwelling fires were detected at a very early stage and is testament to the success of SFRS domestic fire prevention activities and the swift response from SFRS crews to contain the fires.

b. During Q3 and Q4 of 2017/18 SFRS attended no Accidental Dwelling Fires in the Ross and Cromarty area which led to fatalities. This continues the pleasing current trend.

- c. There have been zero (0) Non-Fatal Accidental Dwellings Fire Casualties at fire incidents attended by SFRS during Q3 and Q4. The 2017/18 annual total is one (1) casualty which is the lowest in the last five years suggesting early detection of fire and escape of occupants.
- d. There were twenty-two (22) Deliberate Fires attended by SFRS during Q3 and Q4. These fires included: three (3) that were set by the owner of the property; one (1) with undetermined ownership; and eighteen (18) that were known to be set by persons who did not own the property. Although these figures raise concern they represent a one third reduction from the thirty-three (33) similar fires attended in Q1 and Q2 of 2017/18.

Detailed analysis identifies that: eleven (11) were wildfires; seven (7) were refuse fires; one (1) was a fence; and three (3) involved buildings. Seventeen (17) deliberate fires occurred within the Cromarty Firth ward; four (4) in Dingwall and Seaforth; and one (1) in Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh.

SFRS has been working with a number of key partner agencies to tackle the spike in wilful fire raising within the Cromarty Firth ward. Fires in the Alness area have now subsided but there is ongoing activity to address broader anti-social behaviour issues in Invergordon.

- e. SFRS attended thirty (30) Special Service Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) during Q3 and Q4 of 2017/18. Of those incidents attended: two (2) did not require any SFRS action; twenty-one (21) only required crews to make vehicles or the scene safe; one (1) required medical assistance; and six (6) required extrication of casualties.

Eleven (11) of the RTCs occurred within the Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh ward; eight (8) in Dingwall and Seaforth; seven (7) in Cromarty Firth; and four (4) in Tain and Easter Ross.

- f. A total of fifty-six (56) occurrences of Unwanted False Alarm Signals (UFAS) were attended by SFRS during Q3 and Q4 in the Ross and Cromarty area. This represents a one third decrease from the (89) incidents which occurred in the previous six months.

Detailed analysis has identified that UFAS incidents were dispersed over thirty-seven (37) premises. This is fifteen (15) less premises than in the previous six months. Nine (9) premises produced more than one UFAS occurrence and these accounted for half (28) of the total incidents attended. Only one (1) premises generated sufficient repeated UFAS to reach the trigger point for additional SFRS intervention.

SFRS has been successfully working with the responsible person for each premises which generates repeated false alarms. The aim is to prevent the reoccurrence of this type of incident by advising on equipment and its effective management.

3.4 Station Crewing Levels

SFRS continues to actively deliver and refine its Retained Duty System (RDS) recruitment and training processes to meet national and local needs. Key stations and communities are targeted across the Ross and Cromarty area. SFRS promotes campaigns within partner agencies, through local media and key community contacts. Continued local area support is requested for recruitment in the following communities:

- Achiltibuie
- Aultbea
- Applecross
- Dingwall
- Fortrose
- Glenelg
- Invergordon
- Kinlochewe
- Lochcarron

4. Implications

4.1 Not applicable.

Date: 20 April 2018

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Attachment: Highland – Ross and Cromarty Committee - Performance Report