

# Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 6 October 2020

## Local Fire Plan 2020

Executive/routine  
Wards  
Council Commitments

### 1. Recommendations

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1.1 To approve the Local Fire Plan 2020.

**Andrew Kerr**

Chief Executive

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# Report

## Local Fire Plan 2020

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 The Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS) has submitted the Local Fire Plan 2020 for approval.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 requires SFRS to set out a local plan. The Local Plan should:
- 3.1.1 set out the main priorities and objectives for SFRS in the local authority's area,
  - 3.1.2 explain the reasons for selecting each of those priorities and objectives,
  - 3.1.3 where reasonably practicable, identify outcomes by reference to which the achievement of those priorities and objectives may be measured,
  - 3.1.4 describe how those priorities, objectives and arrangements are expected to contribute to the delivery of any other relevant local outcomes which are identified by community planning, and
  - 3.1.5 include any other information connected with the work of SFRS in the local authority's area which the local commander considers relevant.

### 4. Main report

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- 4.1 The Plan outlines the priorities of the SFRS City of Edinburgh Local Senior Officer area and aims to provide a detailed base for SFRS work and performance to be scrutinised.

### 5. Next Steps

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- 5.1 N/A.

## **6. Financial impact**

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6.1 N/A

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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7.1 N/A

## **8. Background reading/external references**

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8.1 The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012

## **9. Appendices**

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[Local Fire Plan 2020](#)

2020



# **LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN**

City of Edinburgh

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# Introduction

Welcome to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Edinburgh. This plan has been developed to support the delivery of agreed local outcomes for Edinburgh's communities in conjunction with the national priorities contained within the SFRS Strategic Plan 2019 – 2022.

With the ambition of working in partnership to improve community safety, enhancing the well-being of those living or resorting to Edinburgh whilst tackling issues of social inequality, this plan sets out our priorities to support this ambition. The plan complements Edinburgh's Community Planning Partnership vision that "Edinburgh is a thriving, successful and sustainable capital city in which all forms of deprivation and inequality are reduced."

The demands placed upon the SFRS to respond to a wide variety of incidents challenges us to ensure our personnel acquire and maintain a range of skills to enable our ability to respond to emergencies. Through the identification and management of risks within the city we will continue to prepare for these challenges, however we recognise the importance of reducing through effective engagement and intervention measures.

We recognise as a public service organisation and as a member of the community planning partnership, the changing demographics of our society and that this challenges us to continually improve on how we deliver our services to our communities. This plan focuses on those areas of greatest need in our communities and to maximise the potential to work in partnership thus using our capacity more effectively and innovatively.

As the SFRS continues to evolve we will seek to play a key part in public service reform and identify new opportunities to broaden our role within society to ensure, as a modern Fire and Rescue Service, we continue to protect Edinburgh's communities. This Local Fire and Rescue Plan in conjunction with the statutory responsibilities placed upon the SFRS will be used as a driver to build upon our existing partnership arrangements in Edinburgh whilst seeking to foster new relationships to support the service's mission of "Working Together for a Safer Scotland".

Early in 2020 we faced an unprecedented challenge in the form of a global pandemic. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, we dramatically changed how we worked so that we could continue to deliver an emergency service whilst keeping our staff and the public safe.

The pandemic is expected to have a lasting effect on society and this will change the way in which we deliver services in the long-term. The full implications are not yet known and this makes it difficult to make any far-reaching plans with certainty. As such we will keep the priorities of this Plan under regular review to ensure it remains relevant and appropriate.

## National Context

Scottish Ministers set out their specific expectations for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2016. This provides the outline we should follow to ensure our resources and activities are aligned with the Scottish Government's Purpose and national outcomes.

Our [Strategic Plan 2019-22](#) has been designed to meet these national expectations. Set against a complex and evolving backdrop our Strategic Plan encapsulates our mission, values and our strategic outcomes and objectives.



To ensure we can prevent the worst from happening and to be fully prepared to respond should we be called, we need to be aware of any new changing risks which threaten the safety of communities or the workforce. When developing our most recent plan, cognisance was given to: our changing population and the forecasted rise in over 75s; doing what we can to balance social and economic inequality; climate change and the devastating impact the inclement weather can have on people's lives and livelihoods; and the threat of terrorism.

Our Strategic Plan is supported by a three-year Strategic Plan Programme which provides details on all the activities we intend to carry out to successfully achieve our ambitions. The Programme informs our Annual Operating Plan, which provides specific detail on the actions we carry out each year, and from which our performance is scrutinised.

This Plan is a statutory Local Fire and Rescue Plan. It sets local direction to meet the strategic outcomes and objectives outlined above. It also demonstrates how we will contribute to Edinburgh's Community Planning Partnership (CPP).



## Local Context

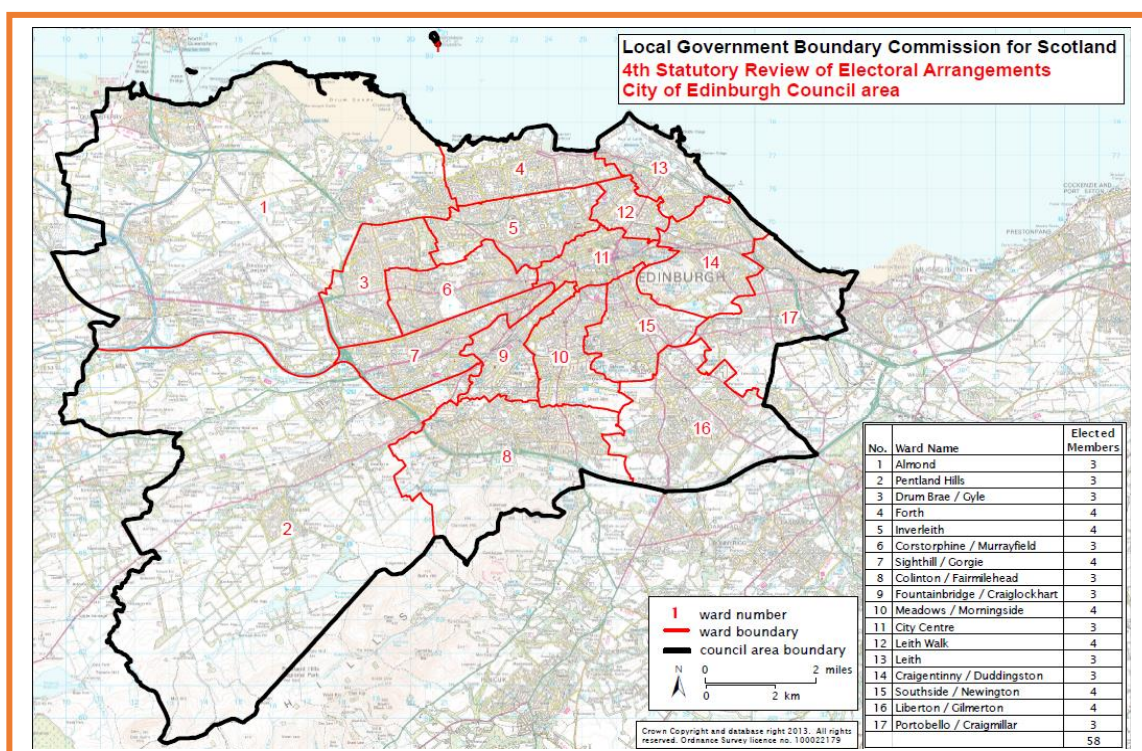
As the capital of Scotland Edinburgh is a unique city; it is situated on the coast of the Firth of Forth covering an area of 263.73 sq.km. Its positioning within Europe and its worldwide transportation links make Edinburgh a hub for tourism and trade.

The city is famous for the [Edinburgh International Festival](#) and the [Fringe](#), the latter being the world's largest annual international arts festival. The city's historical and cultural attractions have made it the United Kingdom's second most popular tourist destination after London, attracting over one million overseas visitors each year. Historic sites in Edinburgh include [Edinburgh Castle](#), [Holyrood Palace](#), the churches of [St. Giles](#), [Greyfriars](#) and the [Canongate](#), as well as the extensive Georgian New Town, built in the 18th century. Edinburgh's [Old Town](#) and [New Town](#) together are listed as a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#), which has been managed by [Edinburgh World Heritage](#) since 1999.

Edinburgh's current population is just over 500,000 and consists of an increasingly diverse ethnic, cultural and linguistic demographic. The population is rising at a faster rate than the national average and it almost doubles in the summer due to the number of visitors attending the many festivals and events hosted in the city.

Edinburgh's population of people aged 65 and over is expected to increase by around 54% over the next 20 years. Although being older is not a specific risk in its own right, it is increased when age is combined with other factors such as living alone and living in poverty. Physical and mental health issues also contribute to an increase in risk.

As a local authority area, Edinburgh is constituted by seventeen multi-member electoral wards covering a range of diverse urban and rural communities. Emergency response within the local authority area is provided from eight locations comprising of seven whole-time station (permanently crewed) and one station which operate on an on call basis.



Community planning in Edinburgh has made good progress in recent years, helping to address the barriers and inequalities being experienced by many of the City's citizens. The Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan 2018-28 describes how the Edinburgh Partnership will deliver the community planning vision for the City.

The key ambition of the Community Plan is to improve services, and deliver better outcomes for service users, citizens and communities. Specifically, the plan places a renewed focus on tackling all forms of deprivation and inequality, improving approaches to prevention, and improving neighbourhood partnership working.

To enable the SFRS to plan and deliver on a proactive and reactive basis, it is important to understand where and how demand for fire and rescue resources may arise in the short, medium and longer term.

Review of operational activity across Edinburgh indicates a general downward trend in overall activity levels over the last five years. In terms of fire related activity, accidental dwelling fires and fire casualties have seen a steady decrease year on year and the provision of early warning alarms has significantly to reducing the severity of fires within the home with the majority of incidents dealt with in their initial stages.

Deliberate fire setting on average accounts for just over 1 in 4 operational responses and trend analysis indicates fluctuation in levels of this activity type over the last five years. Analysis identifies deliberate fire setting is occurring on an ongoing basis, although peak activity has been identified in the same periods each year.

Whilst many incidents within Edinburgh are as a result of a confirmed genuine emergency, on average more than half of emergency responses made by the SFRS turn out to be false alarms. These alarms may be as a result of a genuine belief that a fire is occurring, which subsequently is confirmed not to be the case, or through malicious activity resulting in a report of fire being made knowing this report is false in its nature. There are also a number of warnings of fire generated by fire alarm systems which, following an attendance and investigation, turn out to be false in their origin. Currently attendances to premises which generate these false signals account on average for a quarter of all emergency responses within Edinburgh resulting in disruption to those within the premises in which the alarm activates and also to the SFRS who, on many occasions, are diverted from other activities to attend these incidents.

Reducing service demand, whilst developing the role of the SFRS as part of the ongoing process of public service reform, presents both challenges and opportunities for us to become more integrated in the community planning partnership environment. The recent introduction of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 has resulted in the development of four Locality Improvement Plans covering the North West, North East, South East and South West areas of the city through a process of local planning designed to deliver local outcomes that make a positive contribution across Edinburgh communities and to reduce inequalities. In developing this Local Fire and Rescue Plan, the SFRS will seek to ensure its activities compliment and support the locality planning process and local priorities.

With the development of the local community justice strategy within Edinburgh following the introduction of the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016, the SFRS will ensure, as a

partner within the Community Justice Authority, its resources contribute to support the delivery of the strategy.

## **Performance Scrutiny**

Overseeing the performance of the SFRS at local level is the responsibility of Edinburgh's Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee. Within this forum the Committee undertakes the process of scrutiny to monitor progress against the priorities within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan and also engages with the Local Senior Officer in matters arising on a regional or national basis.

# Local Priorities

## 1. Operational Resilience and Preparedness

The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Fire (Additional Function) (Scotland) Order 2005 define the duties and responsibilities for the SFRS in relation to responding to emergencies. It is essential our firefighters possess the skills, knowledge and expertise to respond to incidents, which by their nature, can be varied in both their type and complexity.

It is important our firefighters understand the risks across their communities to ensure the level of risk is matched by an appropriate level of operational response. In gathering this knowledge, appropriate training is carried out to safeguard firefighter safety and to ensure any such response results in an effective and efficient deployment of our resources.

There will also be occasions whereby the nature of an emergency will require a combined response by emergency services and other organisations to deal with such a major event. To ensure a co-ordinated response occurs, additional duties are placed upon the SFRS under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 to prepare and be able to respond to deal with major emergencies. The scope of such preparations may include responding to adverse weather events, natural disasters, pandemics, chemical incidents or major transport incidents. The threat of terrorism also compels the SFRS to ensure it can also respond alongside other partner agencies should such an event occur.

As an emergency responder, the SFRS needs to ensure it has the capability and the capacity to plan, prepare and respond to major emergencies. Working in partnership at a local and national level, the multi-agency approach requires a joint approach to assess these risks in order to develop appropriate response plans. Following their development, these plans require to be tested to support a return to normality when a significant event and subsequent disruption arises.

As Scotland's capital city Edinburgh has a tradition of hosting large public events such as the annual Festival and Hogmanay celebrations, Royal and VIP visits, concerts and celebrations. A large proportion of these require detailed planning and coordination with partner agencies such as Police Scotland, City of Edinburgh Council and the Scottish Ambulance Service. The planning in preparation for a large proportion of these events requires a multi-agency approach to ensure public enjoyment and safety and SFRS is a key partner in this work.

We recognise the potential for the role of the SFRS to evolve which provides scope to further protect those members of our communities from harm in the event of an emergency. Assisting other agencies in emergency situations, such as responding to 'Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrests' is one example where resources can be combined to maximise the potential for positive outcomes for those requiring assistance. The opportunity also exists to promote and support community resilience to improve the survivability rates from cardiac arrests through active engagement and education across Edinburgh communities.

**We will achieve it by:**

- *Identifying and assessing the risk to our communities through Operational Intelligence gathering.*
- *Undertaking planned training events to support the acquisition and maintenance of skills to provide the capability to respond to emergency incidents.*
- *Reviewing our operational responses to incidents to ensure ongoing firefighter safety and to ensure the ongoing protection our communities from harm.*
- *Working in partnership to plan, prepare and test our responses to major emergencies.*
- *Continuing to draw upon our experience of multi-agency event planning to ensure that all events within Edinburgh are safe, successful and enjoyable, minimising disruption to the city and maximising public safety.*
- *Supporting and promoting the reduction of harm from 'Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrests.'*

**Performance Indicators:**

- *Reviewing the number of intelligence gathering visits made analysing the use of this intelligence at operational incidents.*
- *Participating in major event debriefs to continually improve the planning process.*
- *Reviewing partnership plans and our own response to larger multi-agency type events.*

**Expected Outcomes:**

- *Support the wellbeing and safety of Edinburgh residents and visitors to the city.*
- *Ensure the safety of the personnel from all agencies who respond to emergencies and promote an early return to normality should an incident occur.*
- *Ensure Edinburgh remains a city of choice for national and international events.*



## 2. Domestic Fire Safety

Fire safety within the home is a key prevention strategy for the SFRS as the consequences of fires within the home can result in a range of impacts on individuals, families, social landlords and communities. For organisations the requirement to respond, intervene and deal with the aftermath of domestic fires places demand on resources. To reduce this demand, it is essential approaches to prevention are evidenced based in order to maximise and focus resources to make the biggest impact to safeguard those most at risk of fire.

Analysis of accidental dwelling fire data identifies cooking as the most common cause of fires within the home in Edinburgh and also the most prevalent cause where fire related injuries are sustained by occupants. Those who are deemed at risk from fire may also have other vulnerabilities and impairments due to age, health or mobility reasons and they may also be receiving support from other partners. The scope therefore exists to work more closely together to protect those most at risk from fire through effective information sharing.

In order to reduce the potential for fires to occur, influencing positive change in occupant behaviours through raising fire safety awareness will be at the forefront of our preventative activities. By increasing the ownership of working smoke detection, the means of giving early warning of fire will also contribute to mitigating the severity of fires and fire related injuries within the home. By using assistive technology such as 'Telecare', the opportunity exists to further enhance the safety of those who are at risk from fire.

### **We will achieve a reduction in domestic fires by:**

- *Promoting and undertaking Home Fire Safety Visits to those deemed at risk from fire.*
- *Working with our partners in Edinburgh to share information where fire risks within the home have been identified and to provide solutions to protect those who are at risk.*
- *Focusing engagement activities in those areas where service demand has been identified.*
- *Supporting the provision of assistive technology within the home to increase occupant safety.*

### **Performance Indicators:**

- *Reviewing the number of accidental dwelling fires and their severity.*
- *Reviewing the number and the severity of fatal and non-fatal fire related injuries.*
- *Increasing the presence of working smoke/heat detection within homes affected by fire.*

### **Expected Outcomes:**

- *We aim to reduce the number of accidental dwelling fires in Edinburgh by 5% per year.*
- *Support the safety and well-being of Edinburgh residents.*

- *Support the independent living of vulnerable members within our communities.*
- *Reduce the social and economic cost of fires and fire related injuries.*
- *Reduce demand on the SFRS and its partners.*

### 3. Unintentional Injury and Harm

It is not uncommon for those at risk from fire to also be at risk from other injuries within the home, in particular from injuries arising from slips, trips and falls. Requests to the SFRS to provide assistance directly through a first responder role or to provide support to other agencies are increasing. Analysis of data indicates falls are a common cause of accidental deaths and injuries and account for a significant proportion of admissions to hospital. Those persons injured through falls may often be affected by other medical conditions such as dementia. The SFRS has a role to play in contributing to the protection of those at risk from injury and harm within the home. Through operational attendances and delivery of home fire safety visits, we have the opportunity to identify those at risk and through an assessment of such risk, refer individuals to partner organisations for additional support.

Out with the domestic environment, the SFRS responds to a range of non-fire related emergencies. The most common incident of this type within Edinburgh is attendances at Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) which result in the majority of non-fire related injuries. Responding to RTCs is a statutory duty for the SFRS, however a collective approach is required amongst community planning partners to support risk reduction measures. As a partner, the SFRS will support the education of young drivers who are considered to be an 'at risk' group and support other initiatives intended to reduce the instances and impact of RTCs within Edinburgh.

#### **We will achieve a reduction in accidental injury and harm by:**

- *Utilising our Home Fire Safety Visit programme to assess for non-fire related risk and refer those deemed at risk from injury and harm to partners to provide additional support.*
- *Working in partnership to deliver targeted road safety programmes to young drivers.*
- *Focusing resources where demand has been identified and deliver key safety messages.*

#### **Performance Indicators:**

- *Reviewing the number of requests for assistance from other agencies and for the provision of medical and first responder support.*
- *Reviewing the number of attendances at RTCs and the frequency and severity of injuries arising from RTCs.*
- *Reviewing the number of other non-fire related emergencies and the frequency and severity of injuries arising from these incidents.*

#### **Expected Outcomes:**

- *Reduce the social and economic cost of unintentional harm and injury.*
- *Support vulnerable members within our communities to live independently within their communities.*
- *Ensure the safety and well-being of those living, working and visiting Edinburgh.*



#### **4. Deliberate Fire Setting**

Deliberate fire setting accounts for a significant number of operational incidents within Edinburgh and takes various forms. Whilst a small proportion involve occupied buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures (primary fires), the majority of deliberate fires are classed as secondary in nature and commonly occur in outdoor locations in waste and waste containers.

Analysis of incident data identifies deliberate secondary fires occurring throughout the year, however peak activity is noted in the spring time, during the bonfire season and when prolonged periods of dry weather arise. Deliberate fire setting is regarded as anti-social behaviour and is also criminal in nature. These acts can lead to serious consequences such as personal injury, damage to property and the environment. Dealing with instances of deliberate fire setting also diverts fire and rescue resources from other meaningful activities.

Working in partnership, we will seek to combine our information to identify those parts of our communities that are being affected by anti-social behaviour in order to reduce such instances whilst tackling the underlying causes of such behaviour. On some occasions the SFRS will work with Police Scotland to investigate deliberate fire setting to determine the cause and if possible those responsible for such acts. Diversionary and engagement activity is regarded as an important approach in tackling anti-social behaviour and will continue to be part of our approach to raise awareness of the impact of this unwanted activity.

##### **We will achieve by:**

- *Identifying those parts of Edinburgh's communities affected by deliberate fire setting and sharing this information with our partners.*
- *Utilising our Young Firefighters, Fire Reach, Firesetters and school's education programmes to raise awareness of the impact of fire related anti-social behaviour.*
- *Working with partners to develop joint strategies to reduce the risk posed by deliberate fire setting and to mitigate its impacts.*

##### **Performance Indicators:**

- *Reviewing the number and type of deliberate fire setting incidents within Edinburgh.*
- *Evaluating the effectiveness of our youth engagement programmes.*

##### **Expected Outcomes:**

- *We aim to reduce deliberate fire setting Edinburgh by 5% per year.*
- *Enable the SFRS to divert its resources towards other community based activities.*
- *Protect the natural and built environment.*
- *Support the promotion of active and responsible citizenship across Edinburgh communities.*
- *Support our communities in feeling safe from crime, disorder and danger.*

## 5. Non-Domestic Fire Safety

In general, all workplaces and business are classed as non-domestic premises and as such come within the scope of Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 (the Act) which places duties on persons responsible for these premises to comply with the Act and its associated regulations. The SFRS has a statutory duty to promote fire safety and where required enforce compliance with fire safety legislation. To discharge this duty and to secure compliance, the SFRS has adopted an approach utilising advice, education and where required formal enforcement powers.

Given the variety of premises which come within the scope of the Act, the SFRS has developed a fire safety enforcement framework which is based on the principal of risk combined with historical fire data across occupancy groups to create the fire safety audit programme. Those premises which present a higher degree of risk from fire are subject to regular fire safety audits to verify compliance.

The impact of fire can have a devastating impact on business, employment, the provision of critical services and also our heritage. Evidence suggests that premises affected by a serious fire experience a high failure rate. The SFRS will undertake its audit programme to support Edinburgh's ambition to grow its economy during this challenging period of economic recovery and seek to safeguard its culture, heritage and continuation of employment opportunities.

### We will achieve it by:

- *Undertaking our fire safety audit programme in accordance with the SFRS Enforcement Framework.*
- *Engaging with duty holders to promote responsible fire safety management of premises that come under the auspices of Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005.*
- *Working in partnership to ensure the appropriate provision of fire safety standards are incorporated in new premises under construction or premises undergoing material changes.*
- *Working in partnership with other enforcement agencies and organisations to support legislative compliance.*

### Performance Indicators:

- *Reviewing the number of fires in non-domestic premises and the type of premises involved in fire.*
- *Reviewing the number and types of fire safety audits carried out across Edinburgh.*
- *Reviewing the outcome of fire safety audits carried out in non-domestic premises.*

### Expected Outcomes

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- We aim to reduce fires in non-domestic premises in Edinburgh by 3% per year.
- *Enable the industrial, commercial and service sector to maintain business continuity and employment across Edinburgh.*

- *Reduce the potential for loss of life and injury.*
- *Protect Edinburgh's culture and heritage.*
- *Protect the natural and built environment and reduce the impact of fire on our communities.*

## 6. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) incidents are defined as “an event which has required an operational attendance by the Fire & Rescue Service due to the unwanted actuation of a fire alarm system”. Common causes include engineer testing, aerosols, cooking, accidental call point actuation, dust, poor siting of detector heads etc.

These types of call continue to constitute over 30% of all calls received in Edinburgh and is draining on the operational resources required to respond. This impacts on all other SFRS activity in Edinburgh such as training and preventative work as well as reducing the resources available to attend genuine emergencies. There is also a financial cost in terms of unnecessary vehicle movements and the disruption of the normal business of the premises affected.

### **We will achieve it by:**

- *Engaging with premises owners/occupiers to identify the cause of every UFAS incident.*
- *Working with owners/occupiers to implement and support their management of fire alarm systems and the introduction of demand reduction plans.*
- *Identify premises which attract a significant operational response and re-assess the response required.*

### **Performance Indicators:**

- *Reviewing the number of attendances at non-domestic premises and the type of premises generating UFAS across Edinburgh.*
- *Evaluating the outcomes of demand reduction plans to review progress and share good practice.*
- *Reviewing our operational responses to UFAS incidents to ensure they are based on an assessment of risk and demand.*

### **Expected Outcomes:**

- *We aim to reduce unwanted fire alarm signals in Edinburgh by 10% per year.*
- *Minimise the disruption to business and service continuity across Edinburgh.*
- *Increase the capacity of SFRS to carry out other activities in the City.*
- *Reduce the risk to firefighters and the public whilst responding to UFAS incidents.*
- *Reduce SFRS's carbon footprint through less vehicle movements.*

## Review

To ensure this Local Fire and Rescue Plan remains flexible to emerging local or national priorities a review may be carried out at any time but will be reviewed at least once every three years. A review may also be carried out if the Scottish Minister directs it or if a new Strategic Plan is approved. Following a review, the Local Senior Officer may revise the Plan.

## Contact Us

If you have something you'd like to share with us, you can get in touch in a number of ways:

- Use the feedback form on our website to send an email - [www.firesecotland.gov.uk](http://www.firesecotland.gov.uk)
- Contact Edinburgh Area HQ, 95 McDonald Road Edinburgh EH7 4NS, or call 0131 550 4951
- Contact your local community fire station - details are listed on our website or in your local telephone directory.
- Write to us at the address at the bottom of this page.

We are fully committed to continually improving the service we provide to our communities and recognise that to achieve this goal we must listen and respond to the views of the public.

We use all feedback we receive to monitor our performance and incorporate this information into our planning and governance processes in order to continually improve our service.

We are proud to say that the majority of the feedback we receive is positive, and we are keen to hear examples of good practice and quality service delivery that exemplifies the standards of care that we strive to provide for the communities of Scotland.

In instances where our standards of service are questioned, we welcome the opportunity to investigate the circumstances, and are committed to correcting any lapses and using the learning outcomes to improve our future service delivery

**If you would like a copy of this document in a different format or a version in another language please contact: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Service Delivery Area East Headquarters Claylands Road, Newbridge, Edinburgh EH28 8LF Tel: 0131 3445200 or alternatively visit our website [www.firescotland.gov.uk](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk)**



**[firescotland.gov.uk](https://firescotland.gov.uk)**