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East Dunbartonshire Council

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COUNCIL THURSDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2023

REFERENCE: EDC/013/23/CL

LEAD OFFICER: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CONTACT OFFICER: CLIVE LEWIS, COMMUNITY PROTECTION
MANAGER, 0141 578 8817

SUBJECT TITLE: ANNUAL REVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCESS
FOR THE EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE LOCAL
FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this Report is to invite Council to review and scrutinise the local performance reports of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for 2022-23 and the first quarter of 2023-24.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council:

- 2.1** scrutinises the annual performance report for 2022-23 against the East Dunbartonshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan for the 2020-23 period;
- 2.2** reviews the performance report for first quarter of 2023-24;
- 2.3** agrees to consider the new East Dunbartonshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2023-26 at a future date once it is finalised by the Local Senior Officer; and
- 2.4** agrees that progress against the current Local Fire and Rescue Plan will continue to be monitored by means of scrutiny and review at Council on an annual basis. The Community Planning Partnership Board will also continue to receive regular progress reports.

ANN DAVIE
DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

3.0 BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 3.1** Council will be aware that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service came into force on 1 April 2013, replacing the existing Fire and Rescue Services throughout Scotland, including Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, which covered East Dunbartonshire. The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 makes provision for the preparation of a local plan. This plan needs to be considered and approved by the Council, with an associated review and scrutiny process taking place.
- 3.2** The Local Senior Officer is required to review the Local Fire and Rescue Plan at least every three years. The production of the Local Plan is an important part of the national planning process. It takes account of the Scottish Government's overarching vision for public services, the strategic direction set out in the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Plan. The plan is also linked to locally identified priorities and objectives through the Community Planning Partnership and the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP), with Local Outcome 4 (Safer and Stronger Communities) being particularly relevant.
- 3.3** A review document in relation to the East Dunbartonshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan for the 2020-23 period was considered and approved by Council on 19 November 2020 (**PNCA/088/20/EB**). The Plan was thereafter finalised and is contained in **Appendix 3**. Appropriate review and scrutiny of the Plan ensures that the relevant provisions of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 are being met on a local basis.
- 3.4** It should also be noted that the new Local Fire and Rescue Plan for East Dunbartonshire for the 2023-26 period is currently under development and will be submitted for consideration at a future meeting of the Council once it is finalised.
- 3.5** The annual performance report for the full year 2022-23 is contained in **Appendix 1** and the performance report for the first quarter of 2023-24 is contained in **Appendix 2**. The Scrutiny of 2022-23 performance is carried out against the East Dunbartonshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2020-23. Performance in the first quarter of 2023-24 will be reviewed on a general basis as the new Local Fire and Rescue Plan for East Dunbartonshire for the 2023-26 period is still in development. This reporting will be accompanied by means of a brief presentation to Council by the Local Senior Officer.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

The implications for the Council are as undernoted.

- 4.1** Frontline Service to Customers – None.
- 4.2** Workforce (including any significant resource implications) – None.
- 4.3** Legal Implications – Council complying with obligations in relation to the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 through application of appropriate approval, scrutiny and review processes.

- 4.4 Financial Implications – None.
- 4.5 Procurement – None.
- 4.6 ICT – None.
- 4.7 Corporate Assets – None.
- 4.8 Equalities Implications – None.
- 4.9 Corporate Parenting - None.
- 4.10 Other – None.

5.0 **MANAGEMENT OF RISK**

The risks and control measures relating to this Report are as follows: -

- 5.1 The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is a key partner within the Community Planning process in East Dunbartonshire. Failure to effectively deliver the Local Fire and Rescue Plan creates risk in terms of successfully delivering the outcomes contained within the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) and successfully delivering wider Council objectives. Progress in relation to the Local Fire and Rescue Plan and with local fire and rescue activity is of particular significance in terms of delivering safer and stronger communities within East Dunbartonshire. The application of robust scrutiny and review processes, in line with the requirements of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, will help to control the risk.

6.0 **IMPACT**

- 6.1 **ECONOMIC GROWTH & RECOVERY** - Effective delivery of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan will indirectly support the delivery of Local Outcome 1 of the LOIP and Council objectives in relation to economic growth and recovery.
- 6.2 **EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS** - Effective delivery of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan will indirectly support the delivery of Local Outcome 2 of the LOIP and Council objectives in relation to employment and skills.
- 6.3 **CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE** - Effective delivery of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan will indirectly support the delivery of Local Outcome 3 of the LOIP and Council objectives in terms of our children and young people.
- 6.4 **SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES** - The priorities contained within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for East Dunbartonshire are closely aligned to Local Outcome 4 of the LOIP and Council objectives in terms of community safety. Effective delivery of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan will therefore help to ensure that East Dunbartonshire is a safe place in which to live, work and visit.
- 6.5 **ADULT HEALTH & WELLBEING** - Effective delivery of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan will indirectly support the delivery of Local Outcome 5 of the LOIP and the Council's objectives in relation to adult health and wellbeing.

6.6 OLDER ADULTS, VULNERABLE PEOPLE & CARERS - Effective delivery of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan will indirectly support the delivery of Local Outcome 6 of the LOIP and the Council's objectives in terms of our older adults and vulnerable people.

6.7 CLIMATE CHANGE - No significant impact.

6.8 STATUTORY DUTY - Application of appropriate approval, scrutiny and review processes will allow Council to fulfil relevant obligations under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012.

7.0 POLICY CHECKLIST

7.1 This Report has been assessed against the Policy Development Checklist and has been classified as being an operational report and not a new policy or change to an existing policy document.

8.0 APPENDICES

8.1 Appendix 1 – Local Fire and Rescue Plan, Performance Report for 2022-23.

8.2 Appendix 2 – Local Fire and Rescue Plan, Performance Report for Quarter 1 2023-24.

8.3 Appendix 3 – East Dunbartonshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2020-23.