

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN 2026 - 2029

East Ayrshire



East Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir an Ear

Safety. Teamwork. Respect. Innovation.

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Foreword

<Foreword will follow in the final draft>

Introduction

LSO Picture

Welcome to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Local Fire and Rescue Plan for East Ayrshire. This plan will build on the good outcomes already being delivered in communities across East Ayrshire, and details how SFRS will deliver its priorities, in conjunction with the national priorities contained within the SFRS Strategy 2025-28 and the ambitions of the East Ayrshire Council Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2024-27 (LOIP).

This plan will set out those priorities, the context behind them and how SFRS can contribute effectively to the safety and wellbeing of all persons within East Ayrshire. We remain fully committed to ensuring that we provide a highly professional service and can give you my personal commitment that we will seek innovative methods of working and collaboration, with all of our partners and stakeholders, to improve community safety, enhance wellbeing, support business, reduce risk, tackle inequality and improve the lives of everyone who resides and works within East Ayrshire.

The operating environment for fire and rescue services continues to evolve, shaped by a combination of national and local challenges. Across Scotland, there is growing demand linked to climate change, including increases in flooding, wildfires, and severe weather events, of which the Service must be prepared for changing incident dynamics, advances in technology, and the need to maintain a skilled and resilient workforce. East Ayrshire experiences many of these pressures, alongside socio-economic challenges, placing additional demand on public services and reinforcing the need for enhanced prevention, effective intervention, innovation and a modern response.

A key focus of this plan is recognising and responding to the demographic profile and risk landscape within East Ayrshire. The diverse mix of communities presents distinct risks, service delivery challenges, and inequalities, which we require to be able to identify and resolve. These inequalities are closely linked to increased vulnerability, resulting in a higher likelihood of fire incidents and accidental harm in the home. The plan also acknowledges the impact of an ageing population, which combined with issues such as fuel poverty, social isolation, and wider health inequalities, increases the risk profile for many individuals and households. We recognise that reducing risk is not solely about emergency response, but about addressing the wider determinants of health and wellbeing. This requires a preventative approach with proportionate interventions, targeting resources and activity where they will have the greatest impact in reducing risk and improving outcomes.

Prevention, protection and early intervention will remain central to our approach, with a continued focus on fire safety within the home and non-domestic environments, road and water safety, community engagement and visibility, and targeted support for those most at risk. Therefore, we will strengthen our use of data and intelligence to better understand risk and to inform decision-making, we will continue to modernise service delivery, enhance workforce capability, and embrace innovation to improve our own effectiveness. Importantly, we intend to liaise closely with partners to co-ordinate and share information to support individuals and communities. Through this approach, SFRS aims to not only respond effectively to emergencies, but to play a proactive role in reducing harm. This Local Fire and Rescue Plan reflects our shared ambition to deliver meaningful improvements for the communities we serve, ensuring that East Ayrshire is a safer, more resilient, and more equitable place for all.

Area Commander Kevin Murphy
Local Senior Officer - East, North and South Ayrshire

National Context

Scottish Ministers set out their specific expectations for SFRS in the [Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2022](#). This Framework provides SFRS with seven strategic priorities and objectives, together with guidance on how the delivery of our functions should contribute to the Scottish Government's Purpose.

The Framework also defines the SFRS purpose as:

'To work in partnership with communities and with others in the public, private and third sectors on prevention, protection and response to improve the safety and wellbeing of people throughout Scotland.'

The SFRS Strategy 2025-28 has been designed to have regard to these national expectations. Set against a complex and evolving backdrop, our Strategy supports delivery of our Purpose, Mission and Vision.

To achieve our ambitions, we have identified five strategic objectives and outcomes. Each objective holds equal value in driving our Strategy forward. As a collective, they define our overall direction and will be central to how we plan our activities and our budget over the next three years.

OBJECTIVE	OUTCOME
Safer Communities through Prevention	Through our work with communities and other organisations, the safety and wellbeing of the people of Scotland improves.
Safe and Effective Response	We are an effective and trusted Fire and Rescue Service where our communities and people are safe.
Investing in our People	Our people feel valued and are supported by a culture that embraces diversity and inclusion, empowerment and accountability.
Improving Performance	Our organisational performance, productivity and resilience continually improve.
Innovation and Investment	We are more innovative and achieve sustained investment in our technology, equipment, estate and fleet, making us more effective and efficient.

This Plan is a statutory Local Fire and Rescue Plan. It sets local direction to meet the strategic objectives and outcomes outlined above; and supports delivery of the SFRS Prevention Strategy. It demonstrates how we will contribute to Community Planning Partnerships within the Local Authority area.

Challenges

Over the next three years, the SFRS will operate within a challenging and rapidly evolving national context. This Local Fire and Rescue Plan is developed against a backdrop of sustained financial pressure, changing community risk, and the need for organisational change to ensure services remain effective, sustainable and focused on prevention.

SFRS continues to face real-term financial constraints despite funding uplifts, with rising costs, inflationary pressures and a substantial backlog in capital investment. Ageing fire stations, fleet and operational systems require modernisation, while the Service must also deliver recurring savings. This national financial environment directly shapes decisions about service delivery models, asset rationalisation and the prioritisation of resources at local level.

Workforce capacity remains a critical national challenge. Recruitment, retention and availability, particularly within the On-Call duty system are under increasing pressure, especially in rural and remote communities. Supporting staff wellbeing, skills, training and leadership capacity is essential to maintaining safe and reliable emergency response, while adapting to new and emerging risks.

The risk profile across Scotland is changing. While accidental dwelling fires continue to decline, demand is increasing from climate-related incidents such as flooding, wildfires and extreme weather events. These incidents are often prolonged, complex and resource-intensive, requiring increased resilience, specialist capability and effective multi-agency co-ordination. At the same time, demographic change, health inequalities and housing conditions continue to drive vulnerability and risk within communities.

Prevention remains at the core of SFRS's national and local approach. Reducing harm, protecting vulnerable people and building community resilience are central to managing demand and delivering long-term public value. This requires strong collaboration with partners across health, social care, local government and the third sector.

The SFRS Prevention Strategy 2025–2028 sets out a clear ambition to reduce harm, protect firefighters and communities, and manage demand through a universal prevention outlook delivered proportionately, according to risk, vulnerability and inequality. Local Fire and Rescue Plans are a key mechanism for delivering the Prevention Strategy at local level. They translate national prevention priorities into locally tailored actions, ensuring that community safety engagement, protection and preparedness activity is informed by local risk profiles, partnership intelligence and community need.

In response to some of the challenges we face, SFRS is progressing its Strategic Service Review Programme (SSRP). A priority for the next three years, SSRP will focus on providing firefighters with modern facilities, fleet and equipment to enhance community and firefighter safety; how and where we deliver our services from; and ensuring our corporate services are as efficient and effective as possible. These changes are necessary to ensure resources are targeted where risk is greatest, while maintaining public confidence and local accountability.

This Local Fire and Rescue Plan translates this national context into local priorities, reflecting the specific risks, needs and characteristics of communities. It sets out how SFRS will work with partners to deliver prevention, protection and response activities in a way that supports safer communities while contributing to the Service's wider strategic aims for Scotland.

By focusing on prevention, collaboration and early intervention, this Plan supports public service reform and delivers better outcomes for our local communities.

Local Context

East, North and South Ayrshire (ENSA) Local Senior Officer (LSO) Area, encompasses three Local Authorities: East Ayrshire Council, North Ayrshire Council and South Ayrshire Council.

Within East Ayrshire, SFRS deploys 2 Fire and Rescue appliances, 1 Aerial Ladder Platform and 1 Urban Search and Rescue vehicle from its Wholetime Duty System (WDS) Community Fire Station in Kilmarnock. A further 8 Fire and Rescue appliances can be deployed from On-Call stations in the towns and villages of Stewarton, Newmilns, Mauchline, Muirkirk, Cumnock (x2), New Cumnock and Dalmellington.



In 2025/26, incident activity within the main incident reporting categories, was as follows:

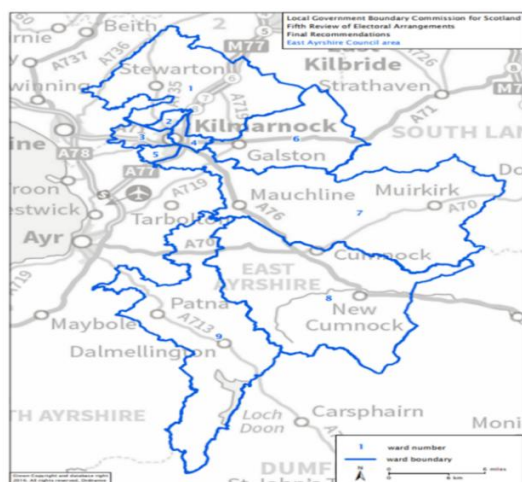
1943 Total Incidents (Incl. Incompletes)	762 Fires	279 Non-Fire Incidents	889 False Alarms	254 UFAS
47 People Rescued by Firefighters	8 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Fires)	1 Fire Fatalities	70 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Non-Fire)	5 Non-Fire Fatalities

East Ayrshire is spread across a diverse urban and rural area. In line with national trends, East Ayrshire continues to experience internal migration of younger persons (aged 16-50) outwards to major towns and cities, combined with incoming internal migration of older persons (50+) to smaller towns and rural communities.

East Ayrshire has a population of approximately 121,000 people, living in 56,000 households, with 47% of the total population living in the largest town, Kilmarnock. The population is 52% female and 48% male, and consists of the following age percentages:

1-15 years - 17% 16-64 years - 62% 65+ years - 12% 75+ years - 9%

Population projections indicate small reductions in the 1-15 years and 16-64 years categories by 2028 and a large rise of up to 25% for the 75+ category. This rise will have implications for all aspects of social and medical care, and on SFRS in terms of prevention and response.



East Ayrshire has nine multi-member wards, electing a total of 32 Councillors.

Five wards elect 4 members and four wards elect 3:

Ward 1	Annick
Ward 2	Kilmarnock North
Ward 3	Kilmarnock West & Crosshouse
Ward 4	Kilmarnock East & Hurlford
Ward 5	Kilmarnock South
Ward 6	Irvine Valley
Ward 7	Ballochmyle
Ward 8	Cumnock & New Cumnock
Ward 9	Doon Valley

East Ayrshire Council have published the following local priorities on their Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2024-27:

Growth

- Sustained economic growth
- Deliver education and skills reform to allow growth of future workforce
- Develop a confident, successful and appropriately qualified and skilled workforce
- Embed ambition, aspiration and entrepreneurship in our culture.

Wellbeing

- Population health is fundamental to achievement of ambitions
- Make East Ayrshire a safe, secure and attractive place to live, work and visit
- Improve community safety and protect and support our most vulnerable individuals and families
- Encourage active and responsible citizenship
- Improve uptake of drug and alcohol prevention and in diversionary activities
- Reduce the number of fire related incidents through prevention and early intervention
- Children and young people are supported to be active, healthy, and to reach their potential
- Residents given opportunity to improve their own wellbeing and older people are empowered to live the healthiest life possible and be cared for in home and community.

Fairness

- Community planning is at the heart of addressing inequalities
- Build a more equitable society where everyone has a chance in life, and people feel safe.

Sustainability

- The sustainability and resilience of our communities, of the environment and of the partnership services we deliver.

Performance Scrutiny

East Ayrshire Council carries out quarterly scrutiny of ENSA performance via the East Ayrshire Police and Fire and Rescue Committee, which is comprised of 11 elected councillors, including a Chair and Vice-Chair.

The East Ayrshire Quarterly Scrutiny Report is collated by the Group Commander (GC) responsible for East Ayrshire, and reports on incident-related performance indicators and prevention and protection activity. The report is presented at committee by the ENSA LSO, or by the East Ayrshire GC in their absence.

The terms of reference of the Police and Fire and Rescue Committee, in relation to SFRS, are as follows:

- To keep under continual review the council's local scrutiny and engagement arrangements
- To consider and comment upon the proposed local operating arrangements for SFRS
- To consider the draft Local Fire and Rescue Plan for East Ayrshire and to make recommendations on the plans to the council
- In respect of approved Local Fire and Rescue Plans, to receive regular reports providing an assessment of performance during the year and an assessment of performance towards achieving the priorities and objectives during the year
- To scrutinise the planning, delivery and outcomes of services delivered by SFRS in East Ayrshire
- To request and receive information and reports from the LSO on any area or aspect of the service deemed appropriate
- To receive and comment on performance reports from the LSO in order to monitor and assess the performance of SFRS against local and national performance frameworks and to make recommendations for improvements
- To scrutinise the discharge of SFRS's consultative and community engagement arrangements in East Ayrshire
- To provide the mechanism to link with the Board of SFRS and to consider and be aware of issues raised at meetings thereof
- To consider reports from external agencies including, but not limited to, His Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate (HMFSI), Audit Scotland and the Accounts Commission in relation to the work carried out by SFRS
- To consider and respond to consultations on strategic SFRS Strategic Plans and priorities.



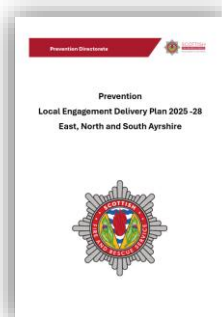
Local Priorities

ENSA local priorities have been derived from the aims and objectives of the undernoted documents and have been designed to achieve maximum benefit for our local communities by prioritising close partnership working with East Ayrshire Council and all other relevant partner organisations and groups.

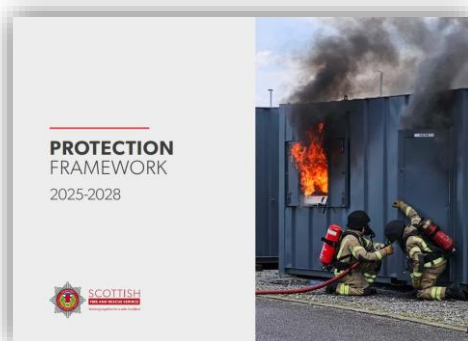
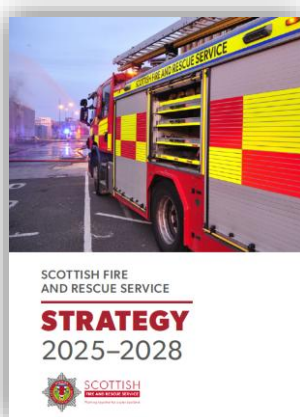
Strategy 2025-28	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Protection Framework 2025-28	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Prevention Strategy 2025-28	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Local Engagement Delivery Plan 2025-28	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Local Enforcement Delivery Plan 2026	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2024-27	East Ayrshire Council

ENSA Local Priorities 2025 - 2028

Priority 1.	Protecting Communities
Priority 2.	Improve Health and Equalities Outcomes
Priority 3.	Providing Education and Opportunities for Young People
Priority 4.	Safeguarding the Vulnerable
Priority 5.	Sustainability



	SFRS Local Area Plan Priorities				
East Ayrshire Council LOIP Outcomes	Priority 1 Protecting Communities	Priority 2 Improving Health & Equalities Outcomes	Priority 3 Providing Education and Opportunities for Young People	Priority 4 Safeguarding the Vulnerable	Priority 5 Sustainability
Outcome 1 Growth		✓	✓	✓	✓
Outcome 2 Wellbeing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Outcome 3 Fairness	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Outcome 4 Sustainability	✓				✓



Our local priorities and the SFRS Strategy 2025-28, place safer communities through prevention, at its core, emphasising that reducing risk through early intervention and partnership working delivers the greatest long-term impact. We are committed to fulfilling our role in promoting safer, fairer and healthier communities, and for planning and delivering services which meet the requirements of our East Ayrshire communities.

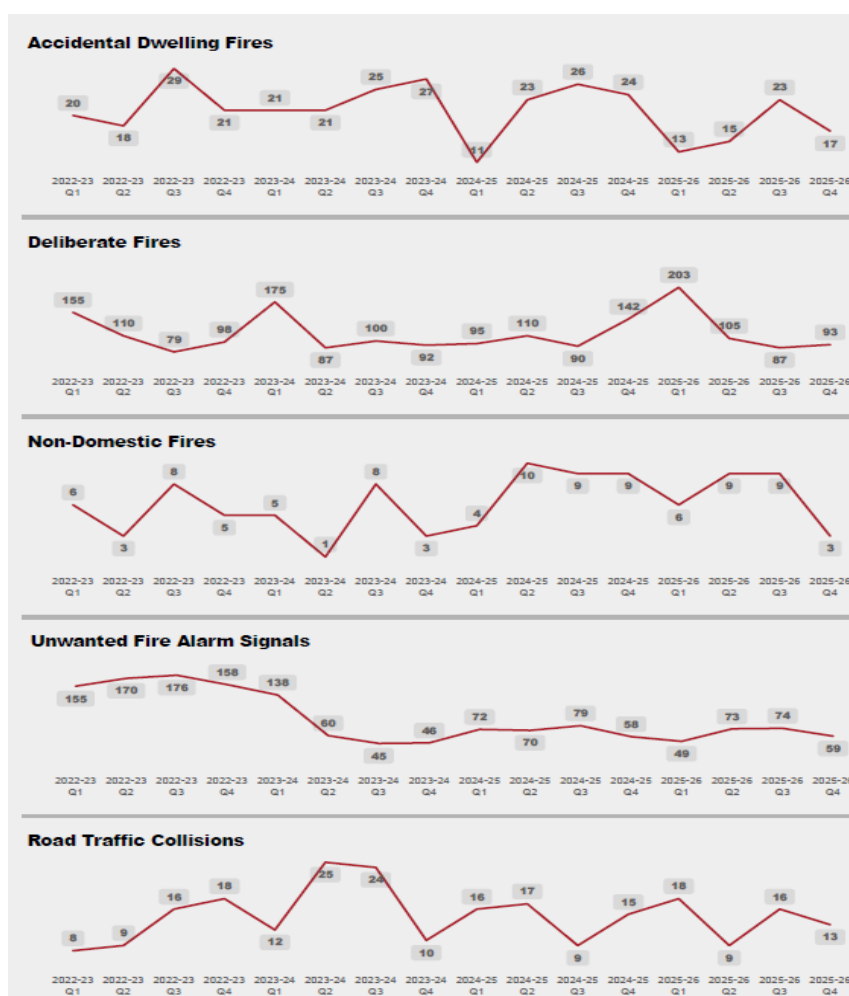
Achieving our local priorities will be the core focus of all functions and teams within ENSA, and progress towards them will be driven and measured by our Area Management Team.

1. Protecting Communities

Background

While occurrences of all incident types in East Ayrshire remain at relatively low levels, SFRS will continually aspire to achieve an overall and sustained reduction.

Current incident data demonstrates a downward trend over the last 4 years.



Priority Actions

- Continue to invest in our appliances, equipment and infrastructure to ensure our service meets local needs
- Through Strategic Delivery Review (SDR) we will ensure our resources are sufficient to meet local risks, deployed at greatest point of need, and that all communities have appropriate access to response and specialist resources
- Maintain staffing levels to meet Service requirements through recruitment and attendance management
- Train and develop our personnel to the highest standards, to ensure we provide a safe and effective response to all incidents, and ensure Operational Intelligence is gathered and utilised to improve operational response and safety
- Liaise closely with East Ayrshire Council, the CPP, the HSCP, the LRP and other partners and agencies, to support their initiatives and activities wherever value can be added
- Our Community Action Team (CAT) will design and implement local initiatives, identified through data analysis, to address local trends, hotspots and incident clusters
- Combine all aspects of our service to focus on making homes and workplaces safer
- Operational crews will take ownership of incident reduction activities within local council ward areas, providing a more local, responsive, and proactive approach to incident reduction
- Engage with the business community to promote, and enforce where necessary, fire safety legislation, and reduce Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)
- Undertake safety initiatives and provide education and training, in co-operation with the Pan-Ayrshire Roads Alliance, the Pan-Ayrshire Water Safety Group, and other partners aligned to road, water and other identified risks, including CPR
- Engage with identified deliberate fire setters through education, mentoring and diversionary initiatives to modify behaviours
- Actively investigate the causes of all fires, using this data to inform and identify trends and emerging risks, to design and implement local initiatives to reduce all incident types
- Maximise presence on social media and local media sources to promote our safety messages.

Performance Indicators

We will measure performance through qualitative feedback from our stakeholders, partners and members of the public; and conduct quantitative, data driven analysis for local authority scrutiny.

Positive performance indicators will include:

- Reduction in operational activity of all types reported within the local authority area
- Increase in Community Safety activity by operational crews and the CAT Team:
 - Completed Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV)
 - Completed thematic activities and initiatives
 - Completed engagements with pupils, per topic, for our Educational Engagement Syllabus
- Increase in Fire Safety Enforcement (FSE) Auditing:
 - Completed audits and outcomes
 - Reacting to trends and high-profile events to provide targeted specific FSE activity
- Response Availability levels of all East Ayrshire appliances and recruitment pathway totals.

Aligned to East Ayrshire Council LOIP Objectives:

Wellbeing - Safer Communities
Fairness - A more equitable society where everyone feels safe

Aligned to SFRS Strategic Objectives:

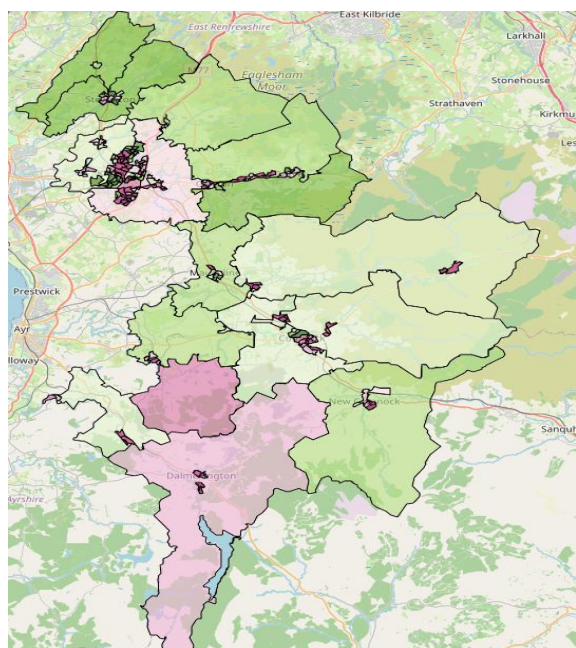
Safer Communities through Prevention
Safe and Effective Response
Improving Performance



2. Improve Health and Equalities Outcomes

Background

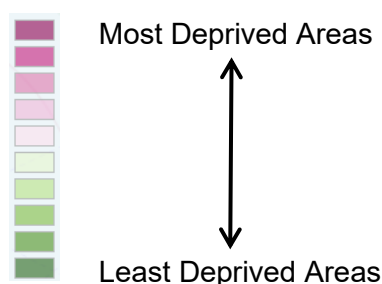
East Ayrshire has many areas of multiple deprivation where communities experience reduced health outcomes and challenges in accessing services. SFRS will work locally, in co-operation with East Ayrshire Council and our partner agencies, to develop and implement strategies and programmes to improve health outcomes and provide equality of service access for all communities.



Source: <https://datamap-scotland.co.uk/>

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) shows that in 2020 over 52,000 people in East Ayrshire lived in areas of multiple deprivation, equating to over 42% of East Ayrshire's total population.

43.3% of the population were deemed to have health impacts due to deprivation, while 42.9% had issues with availability of services or access to them.



The table below shows the population which resides within the 3 most deprived areas of East Ayrshire, compared to the population living in the 3 least deprived areas, and are shown by measures of deprivation including low income and poor health outcomes.

Measure	Population In Most Deprived Areas	Population In Least Deprived Areas	Population % In Most Deprived Areas	Population % In Least Deprived Areas
Overall Rank	52,091	22,311	42.7	18.3
Income	56,399	24,386	46.3	20
Health	52,837	18,346	43.3	15
Employment	55,443	24,941	45.5	20.5
Housing	18,789	36,423	15.4	29.9
Education	44,915	24,723	36.8	20.3
Crime	36,104	37,113	29.6	30.4
Access to Services	52,287	19,663	42.9	16.1

Priority Actions

- Ensure our Community Fire Stations and public spaces are accessible to all, where appropriate, and empower our operational crews to have greater responsibility for engagement within their local area
- Continue recruitment across all of East Ayrshire, and ensure equitable access to opportunities for underrepresented groups through positive action
- Expand our partnership work with relevant health and equalities workstreams, such as Drug and Alcohol Partnerships, The Promise, and Whole Systems Approach, identifying where value can be added in designing and implementing local initiatives
- Liaise closely with the Health and Social Care Partnership to protect those in need of support
- Enhance and develop our involvement with the Community Planning Partnership to ensure the best outcomes are achieved for local communities
- Engage with Locality Groups to develop relationships and deliver local needs-based services
- Continue to offer our Community Fire Stations as local hubs and safe places for mental health crisis, breastfeeding and other uses, where appropriate
- Safeguard our personnel by ensuring mental health champions are trained and available in all our stations and that additional support measures are clearly signposted
- Provide educational, safety and CPR inputs to schools, organisations and groups across East Ayrshire
- Provide home safety advice and promote and expand mutual referral pathways with all partners.

Performance Indicators

- East Ayrshire Council, Public Health Scotland and SIMD data on deprivation, health outcomes and accessibility of services
- Completed partnership programmes and initiatives.

Aligned to East Ayrshire Council LOIP Objectives:

Growth - Deliver education and skills

Wellbeing - Safer Communities

Fairness - A more equitable society where everyone feels safe

Aligned to SFRS Strategic Objectives:

Safer Communities through Prevention

Innovation and Investment

3. Providing Education and Opportunities for Young People

Background

The youth unemployment rate for 16 to 24-year-olds in East Ayrshire is approximately 10%, which is slightly higher than the Scottish national average.

East Ayrshire schools recorded an attendance rate 89.1% in the 2024/25 academic year, an increase from 88.3% in 2023/24. While local rates have improved, this remains the lowest overall attendance rate among all Scottish local authorities, sitting below the national average of 91.0%. A higher proportion of East Ayrshire pupils leave school in S4 and S5 compared to the national average, which limits advanced qualification achievement, with figures showing approximately 24% of leavers achieving SCQF Level 6 against a national average of 26%.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is trending downward in East Ayrshire, although incidents of youth disorder, noise, and public disturbances remain a concern in town centres. The rate of ASB and minor offences fluctuates by ward, with higher densities of incidents generally reported in urban centres compared to rural areas.

Priority Actions

- Work in conjunction with Police Scotland and other partners to progress road safety, continuing as active members of the Pan-Ayrshire Roads Alliance
- Continue to implement and develop our School Engagement Syllabus to deliver thematic safety messages to school pupils of all ages
- Increase delivery of Fire Skills courses to young people identified by our education partners, providing life skills and certified training
- Provide mentoring programmes to young people in each of our wholtime stations
- Engage with young people to provide messaging on safety, ASB and responsible citizenship
- Increase the local presence of our wholtime crews by assigning wards, where they will be responsible for working with local third sector groups and organisations to increase safety engagement
- Expand our relationship with EAC to jointly develop new engagement pathways while continuing to support existing events
- Continue to maintain partnerships in all matters concerning infants, children and young people through the Whole Systems Approach
- Continue with our Youth Volunteer Scheme, offering long-term mentoring, life skills and employability development for young people
- Develop and expand our work with the EAC anti-social behaviour taskforce and develop and implement local diversionary schemes
- Expand our work with the Community Justice Partnership and provide pre-liberation training on CPR and home safety to young offenders being released from HMP Kilmarnock
- Continue to actively recruit for all roles, and through positive action offer opportunities to underrepresented groups.

Performance Indicators

- Completed initiatives and numbers of young people engaged with
- Completed Fire Skills courses, mentoring and CPR courses and partner/attendee feedback.

Aligned to East Ayrshire Council LOIP Objectives:

Growth - Deliver education and skills

Wellbeing - Safer Communities

Fairness - A more equitable society where everyone feels safe

Aligned to SFRS Strategic Objectives:

**Safer Communities through Prevention
Innovation and Investment**



4. Safeguarding the Vulnerable

Background

East Ayrshire faces significant socio-economic challenges, ranking as the 7th most deprived local authority area in Scotland. Social and economic deprivation are directly linked to health outcomes and the risk of a person having one or more vulnerabilities. East Ayrshire's population balance is expected to shift dramatically over the next 2 – 3 years, with those aged 75+ being projected to account for up to 25% of the area's population.

A vulnerable person may be defined as someone who is less able to protect themselves from harm, abuse (physical, mental or financial), neglect or exploitation due to factors including age, illness, disability or alcohol/drugs dependency.

Priority Actions

- Ensure crews and engagement personnel are trained and skilled in recognising risk of harm and processes to follow
- Advertise and offer domestic safety advice to the most vulnerable members of our communities to improve safety at home
- Provide detection and fire-retardant equipment where required, at no cost to the occupier
- Liaise with partners to carry out joint visits where appropriate
- Liaise with partners to ensure robust and reciprocal referral pathways exist
- Submit AP1 and CP1 referrals timeously through established pathways
- Provide training and guidance to 3rd sector groups and organisations
- Continue as active members of MARAC, and provide a timeous response to concerns raised
- Liaise with EAC on all projects and programmes designed to safeguard the vulnerable, where SFRS can add value
- Liaise with partner agencies to identify areas of joint learning and ensure subsequent improvement action.

Performance Indicators

- Completed HFSVs
- Completed AP1s and CP1s
- Completed initiatives and programmes.

Aligned to East Ayrshire Council LOIP Objectives:

Growth - Deliver education and skills
Wellbeing - Safer Communities
Fairness - A more equitable society where everyone feels safe

Aligned to SFRS Strategic Objectives:

Safer Communities through Prevention
Safe and Effective Response
Innovation and Investment

5. Sustainability

Background

Changes to the global climate are driving emerging incident trends, requiring SFRS to develop our response model and the resources deployed to meet these risks. As part of our Energy and Carbon Strategy and our Carbon Management Plan, SFRS is committed to reducing the impact of our actions on the environment; to reducing our carbon footprint; and to develop how we deliver our services to minimise environmental impact.

Year	Area Burned (hectares)	Wildfires (over 30 Hectares)
2022	20,362	151
2023	16,443	101
2024	14,139	87
2025	47,879	181

Year	Number of Lithium-Ion Battery Related Incidents	Increase from Previous Year
2022	713	-
2023	1038	45%
2024	1330	28%
2025	1760	32%

Source: UKFRS Website

These tables illustrate the dramatic rise in wildfires and incidents involving lithium-ion batteries in the UK since 2022.

In 2025 the number of wildfires and the land area involved were the highest since records began.

Fires involving lithium-ion batteries have increased from 713 recorded incidents in 2022, to 1760 in 2025 (+146%).

Priority Actions

- Continue and expand our investment in EVs across our fleet
- Continue and expand our investment in solar panel installation at suitable stations, and work to improve energy efficiency at all our properties
- Maximise recycling opportunities with a view to achieving 'zero to landfill'
- Work to reduce all incidents, thus reducing blue light journeys and the resulting environmental impact
- Engage with partners to increase community awareness of the dangers of lithium-ion batteries, BESS sites and other emerging risks, and continue our work with EAC on our battery recycling and safe disposal campaign, to highlight the environmental impact of fires caused by discarded batteries
- Engage with partners to increase community awareness on the dangers and environmental impact of wildfires and continue to take targeted action at areas of concern, such as Loch Doon
- Design and implement community engagement programmes using data models to identify areas of concern
- Our Fire Safety Enforcement team will continue a programme of audits for relevant premises to increase non-domestic fire safety, reducing incidents of fire and the associated fire contaminants and environmental pollution
- Design and implement local awareness campaigns and promote national campaigns to address emerging trends
- Maintain and develop partnership working with the Community Resilience Partnership and Localities Groups to build local community resilience and promote solutions to local challenges.

Performance Indicators

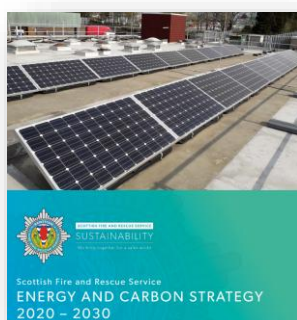
- Station and Area energy performance as measured against our Energy and Carbon Strategy
- Instances and trends of operational incidents
- Instances of Wildfires and Lithium-Ion battery related incidents
- Completed initiatives and campaigns aimed at increasing community knowledge on environmental protection.

Aligned to East Ayrshire Council LOIP Objectives:

Sustainability - Improving the sustainability and resilience of our communities, of the environment, and of the partnership services we deliver

Aligned to SFRS Strategic Objectives:

**Improving Performance
Innovation and Investment**



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 a full review will be completed 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 LSO may revise the Plan.

Associated Documents

The following documents provide additional context and insight:

Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2022	Scottish Government
Strategy 2025-28	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Protection Framework 2025-28	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Prevention Strategy 2025-28	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Scotland's Public Service Reform Strategy 2025	Scottish Government
Local Engagement Delivery Plan 2025-28	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Local Enforcement Delivery Plan 2026	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2024-27	East Ayrshire Council
Energy and Carbon Strategy 2020-2030	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Contact Us

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 and our partners.

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 that most 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 service that we strive to provide for the communities of Scotland.

If you have something you would like to share with us or require additional information, you can get in touch in any of the following ways:

Write to: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
East, North and South Ayrshire Headquarters
4 Barr Street
Ardrossan
KA22 8HH

Phone: 01294 606811

Visit our website: www.firescotland.gov.uk

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