



**SCOTTISH**  
**FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

Working together for a safer Scotland

## **Moray Area**

# **Local Fire and Rescue Plan Review 2017**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is required under the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 as amended to prepare Local Fire and Rescue Plans for each local authority in Scotland. Following the publication of our Strategic Plan in our inaugural year, our first Local Plans were published in April 2014.

These plans were developed to direct the Service through its initial transformation journey and have helped to forge our place as a national organisation with a strong sense of local accountability. Against the drive of public sector reform, the local planning landscape continues to evolve to provide a greater focus on protecting the most vulnerable and improving community outcomes through collaborative working.

The publication of our new Strategic Plan 2016-19 in October 2016 now instigates a timely requirement to carry out a mandatory review of all Local Fire and Rescue Plans. This review will provide us with information on how well we are performing against our existing priorities as well as highlighting areas for continued improvement and opportunities for change against the growing needs of our communities.

## **PERFORMANCE DATA – WHAT THE FIGURES TOLD US**

In carrying out the review of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Moray we firstly looked at the priorities that we had agreed for the Local Plan from 2014-2017, these were:

- Local Risk Management and Preparedness
- Reduction in Accidental Dwelling Fires
- Reduction in Fire Casualties and Fatalities
- Reduction of Deliberate Fires
- Reduction of Fires in Non-Domestic Property and Secondary Fires
- Reduction in Casualties from Road Traffic Collisions, Flooding and other Special Service Calls
- Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Looking at each of priorities we will now provide both quantitative and qualitative information to demonstrate the progress that has been made.

### **LOCAL RISK MANAGEMENT AND PREPAREDNESS**

This priority relates to ensuring that we reduce risks to our communities and ensuring that they receive the best possible service. The management of risk within our communities means:

- Identifying the risks to the community which fall within the scope of responsibility of the SFRS.
- Undertaking a process to prioritise these risks.
- Ensuring that appropriate Local and National resource capability and trained Fire Service Personnel are in place to address the risks.

Throughout the period of this plan we have made good progress against this priority and have contributed to risk planning through Scottish Fire and Rescue Service internal processes and procedures, Grampian Local Resilience Partnership and The Moray Community Planning Partnership.

An important element in achieving this priority is ensuring that we have enough staff with the right skills in the right place at the right time to deliver our services when communities need them. We have achieved this throughout this plan and continually work at a local level to maintain our establishment and ensure that we recruit staff where needed. The Retained Duty System has proved challenging with turnover of staff due to changing personal circumstances and retirements but local managers have worked tirelessly to ensure that appliance availability is maintained and improved upon by running local recruitment campaigns to maintain numbers.

During this review period we introduced a new 5 Watch Duty System for our staff in Elgin (this is part of a national system) and will see the establishment at Elgin rise from 28 to 30 personnel. This increase will see resilience increased within our only Whole-time Station in Moray and provide greater flexibility for development and community engagement activities.

## **REDUCTION OF ACCIDENTAL DWELLING FIRES**

Throughout Moray, dwelling fires occur within a wide variety of home types; this includes both the private and rented sectors. Ward based analysis reports show that a high percentage of fires start in the kitchen when the occupier is cooking in the home.

Accidental dwelling fires can have a significant negative impact upon both the individuals and the wider community and are financially costly to house holders and housing providers in terms of repair and the reinstatement of homes. Key contributory risk factors include:

- Lifestyle including smoking, consumption of alcohol and prescribed and non-prescribed drugs.
- Individual capability and vulnerability.
- Ageing demographics

We are progressing well against this priority and when comparing Moray with the other 31 Local Authorities in Scotland we have the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest number of Accident Dwelling Fires per 10,000 population, averaged over the last five years.

The table below shows the number of accidental dwelling house fires in Moray for this period;

**Table 1. Accidental Dwelling Fires**

<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>
<b>67</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>47</b>

The table above shows that we are progressing well in relation to this priority with the five year lows having been recorded for accidental dwelling fires for the last two consecutive years.

By far the biggest cause of accidental dwelling fires is cooking within the home that accounted for 141 (48%) of the 291 accidental dwelling fires that occurred over the last five years.

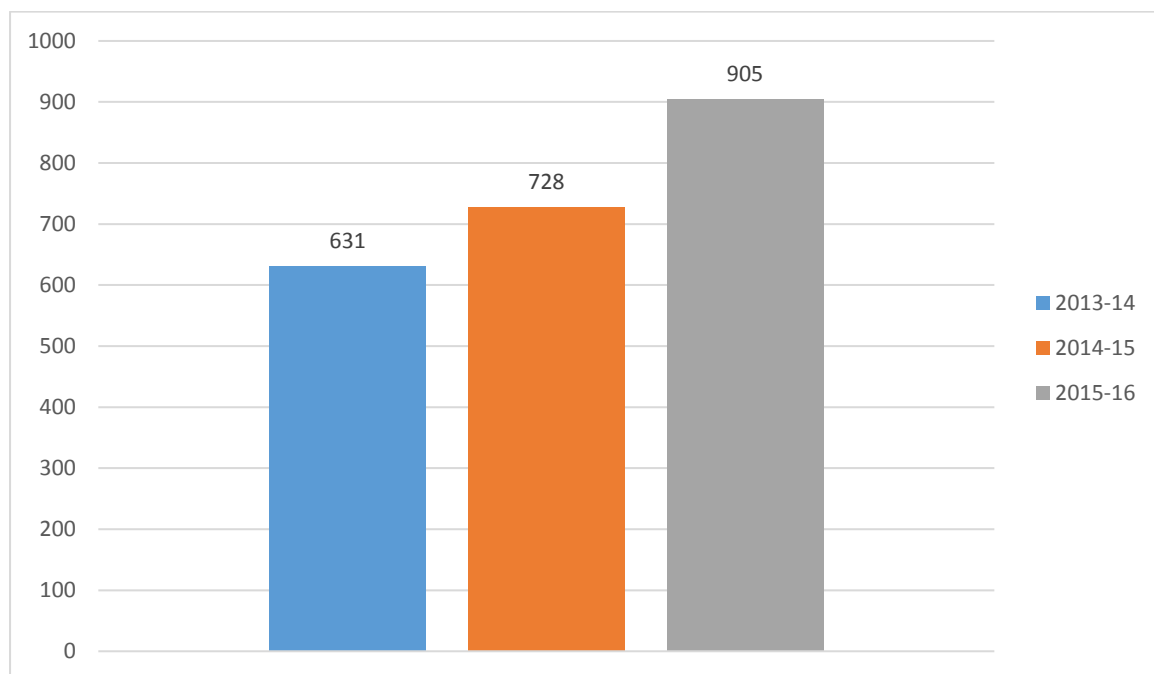
Out of the 291 incidents alcohol were determined to be an influencing factor on 40 occasions (14%).

Of the 291 incidents 183 (63%) required no action from firefighters on arrival other than removing the item from the heat source and providing reassurance and community safety advice.

Out of 291 incidents firefighters assisted with evacuation from the building at 73 incidents (25%).

A key element in reducing the number of accidental dwelling fires has been partnership working and the increased number of high value Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV's) delivered by both local crews and our dedicated staff in our community action team. The chart below shows the continued improvement in the number of HFSV's delivered since the beginning of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service;

**Figure 1. Home Fire Safety Visits Delivered**



In Moray we have seen continuous improvement in the delivery of HFSV's with an increase in 274 (43%) visits delivered when comparing 2013-14 with 2015-16.

## REDUCTION IN FIRE CASUALTIES AND FATALITIES

The reduction of fire casualties and fatalities is clearly linked with our priority to Reduce Accidental Dwelling Fires. The reduction of fire fatalities and casualties is at the core of our preventative and early intervention activities carried out by the SFRS in the Moray area.

Significant contributory factors associated with the number of fire casualties and fatalities include:

- Lifestyle including smoking, consumption of alcohol and prescribed and non-prescribed drugs.
- Individual capability and vulnerability.
- Ageing demographics

We are progressing well against this priority however when comparing Moray with the other 31 Local Authorities in Scotland we were the 10<sup>th</sup> highest local authority area for the number of accidental dwelling fire casualties per 10,000 population averaged out over the last five years.

When comparing the area against the other Scottish Local Authorities in relation to fatalities resulting from accidental dwelling fires we matched 10 other Local Authorities with 0 fatalities when averaged out over the previous 5 years.

The table below shows the number of fire casualties and fatalities in Moray for this period;

**Table 2. Casualties and Fatalities**

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Casualties	29	32	33	21	16
Fatalities	0	1	0	1	0

In Moray steady progress has been made in the reduction of fire casualties with these showing a five year low for the past consecutive two years. Fire fatalities have shown a static pattern with a single fatality occurring every two years.

90 (69%) of the 131 casualties reported occurred as a result of a dwelling fire.

Both of the fatalities that occurred were as a result of a dwelling fire.

Of the 131 non-fatal casualties 16 of them required to be rescued from the fire (8 by firefighters and 8 by other people before the arrival of the fire service).

Of the 131 non-fatal casualties there injuries can be further broken down into the following categories:

11 casualties went to hospital injuries appeared to be serious

46 casualties went to hospital, injuries appeared to be slight

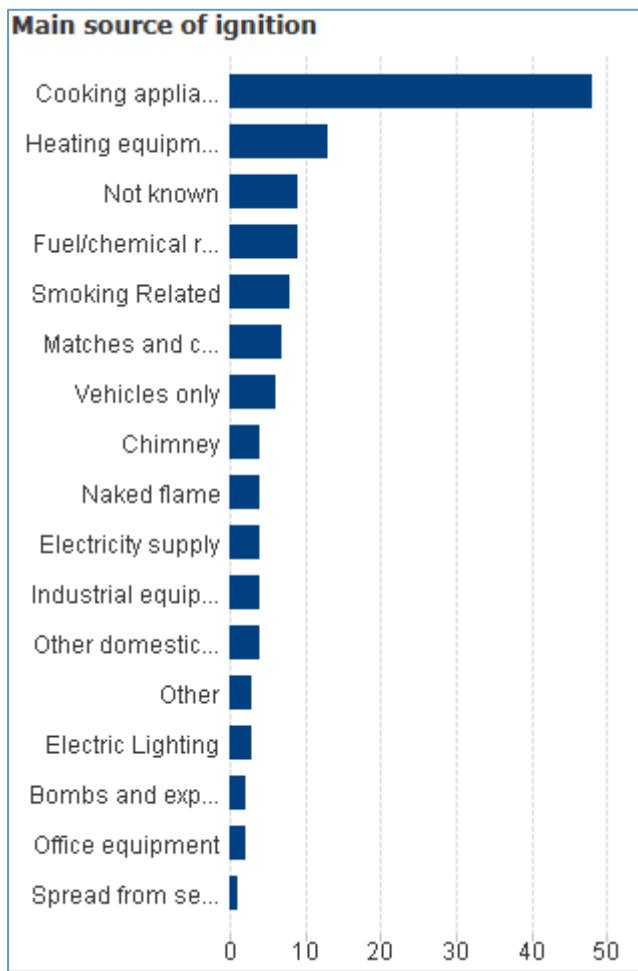
56 casualties were given first aid on scene

18 casualties received a precautionary check up on scene.

The main cause of fires with non-fatal casualties was cooking appliances that accounted for 48 (37%) of casualties. 8 (6%) of casualties resulted from fires caused by smokers materials.

The chart below shows the main source of ignition for fires involving non-fatal casualties:

**Figure 2. Main Source of Ignition**



Of the 131 non-fatal fire casualties 24 (18%) were determined to be suffering impairment due to drugs or alcohol.

Both of the fatal fire fatalities occurred in the Living Room. The causes of the fires that caused the fatalities were determined to be smoking materials and a faulty TV set.

Like in our previous priority partnership working and the delivery of Home Fire Safety Visits are a key element in reducing fire casualties.

## REDUCTION OF DELIBERATE FIRES

In Moray evidence reflects that deliberate fires are a problem in specific areas that can be closely linked to antisocial behaviour. Secondary fires (refuse and grass) are on a downward trend in a number of areas in Moray; however they still account for a high percentage of our operational activity.

**Table 3. Deliberate Fires**

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Total
<b>Deliberate Dwellings</b>	8	2	5	6	3	24
<b>Deliberate Other Buildings</b>	12	2	9	2	7	32
<b>Deliberate Vehicle</b>	4	4	8	3	4	23
<b>Deliberate Other Primary</b>	9	8	7	8	2	34
<b>Deliberate Secondary Refuse</b>	34	24	20	22	25	125
<b>Deliberate Secondary Other</b>	96	44	54	31	27	252
<b>Total</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>68</b>	

As can be seen in the table above the area are making good progress in reducing the number of deliberate fires with figures for the last two years showing consecutive five year lows.

During the reviewing period the service within Moray has attended 490 deliberate fires 377 (77%) of these have been deliberate secondary fires (Refuse or Grass).

## REDUCTION OF FIRES IN NON-DOMESTIC PROPERTY AND SECONDARY FIRES

The SFRS has a statutory duty to promote fire safety under Part 2 (section 8) of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 (as amended) to include provision of information and publicity aimed at preventing fire and reducing fire deaths and injuries, restricting fire spread and advising on means of escape from buildings. All workplaces and business premises involved in fire are

classified as Non-Domestic Fires. Sleeping risks are seen as a particularly high fire risk since most fatal fires occur at night when people are less vigilant and at their most vulnerable. Residential care homes, student accommodation and Houses in Multiple Occupation make up the greatest proportion of these risks within the Moray area.

High fire risk properties are audited on a yearly basis by our staff to ensure that the fire precautions within the property are to a suitable standard.

Secondary Fires include fires involving agricultural land, forestry and moorland. These areas of Moray contribute substantially to the local environment by providing economic benefit through tourism, employment and industry.

**Table 4. Non-Domestic and Secondary Fires**

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Total
<b>Non-Domestic Fires</b>	35	32	45	43	36	191
<b>Secondary Fires (accidental)</b>	61	37	54	51	43	246
<b>Secondary Fires (Deliberate)</b>	130	68	74	53	52	377
<b>Totals</b>	226	137	173	147	131	

#### **REDUCTION IN CASUALTIES FROM ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS, FLOODING AND OTHER SPECIAL SERVICE CALLS.**

A core part of SFRS's activity locally is responding to emergencies such as Road traffic Collisions (RTC's) other rescue situations and flooding. Firefighters are trained to a high standard and have at their disposal the most modern equipment for extricating people in rescue situations and administering first aid to casualties.

The SFRS has a crucial role at a local level in contributing to the wider road safety agenda, as statistically fire and rescue operational activity continues to be an area of concern within Moray, National statistics identify that the most at risk group is young male drivers.

Moray has experienced significant flooding events in recent years. The SFRS has a duty to respond to and support communities in recovering from these incidents. The development of Water Rescue Teams strategically located across the area has significantly improved emergency response and public safety.



**Table 5. Non-fatal Casualties (RTC, Flooding and Other Special Services)**

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Total
<b>RTC</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>266</b>
<b>Other Rescue / Release of Person</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Other Transport Incident</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Rescue or Evacuation from Water</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Medical Incident</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Making Safe (not RTC)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Removal of Objects from People</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Lift Release</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Hazardous Materials</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Assist Other Agencies</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Effecting Entry</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Suicide Attempt</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>344</b>

From the table above it is clear to see that Road Traffic Collisions remains the area where the SFRS respond to the greatest number of casualties.

**Table 6. Fatal Casualties (RTC, Flooding and Other Special Services)**

	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>RTC</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Assist other Agencies</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Effecting Entry</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Suicide</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Rescue or Evacuation from Water</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Medical Incident</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Other rescue / release of person</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>30</b>

## REDUCTION OF UNWANTED FIRE ALARM SIGNALS

The SFR's aim is to reduce the impact of unwanted fire signals generated by automatic detection systems on service delivery, business and commerce. By doing this we aim to improve the safety of Moray communities by ensuring that our service is more readily available for genuine emergencies. An Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal (UFAS) is defined as a signal transmitted by an Automatic Fire Detection (AFD) system reporting a fire where, upon arrival of the fire service, it is found that a fire has not occurred. UFAS are entirely avoidable through good system design, management practice, procedure, maintenance and the appropriate use of space within buildings.

Other types of false alarm include malicious 99 calls and emergency calls made when a person genuinely believes that an emergency has occurred which requires the attendance of the SFRS, and that belief subsequently turns out to be unfounded.

**Table 7. UFAS Calls**

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Total
<b>UFAS</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>1712</b>
<b>False Alarm Malicious</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>False Alarm Good Intent</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>354</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>444</b>	

The reduction of unwanted fire alarm signals remains a priority. All crews have been trained in the reduction of UFAS and provide advice to occupiers on every occasion that we attend a UFAS incident. Our Fire Safety Enforcement Staff monitor UFAS calls and take appropriate action at the various stages as stipulated in the SFRS UFAS Policy.

## ENGAGEMENT – WHAT OUR STAKEHOLDERS TOLD US

Building on the intelligence we gathered during engagement and consultation of our Strategic Plan 2016-19 we re-engaged with our key stakeholders to seek further views on our local service delivery.

Feedback from stakeholders was positive with recognition being given to how the Fire and Rescue Service contribute to Community Safety and Community Planning within the Moray area.

Locally the SFRS makes an effective contribution in both Community Planning and Community Safety arenas.

There is scope to build on the collaborative approach that takes place within Moray and there is an opportunity to reflect this in future priorities within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan.

Key areas of feedback that we received during engagement on the review of our plan were;

- Opportunity for greater focus on Youth Engagement and Partnership Working to reduce Anti-Social Behaviour
- Consider how we can maximise Community Safety Messages for Local Community Groups
- Service Transformation and Redesign
- Community Resilience (Safe and Secure Communities)
- Our contribution to Road Safety
- Local Service Delivery (Service Transformation and Redesign).

## **SCRUTINY – WHAT WE LEARNED FROM THE INSPECTORATE**

To support this formal review the outcomes from HM Fire Service Inspectorate's Local Area Inspections, that examine the development and delivery of Local Fire and Rescue Plans, have also been considered.

By undertaking inspections of service delivery within local authority areas, HMFSI can provide independent assurance to Scottish Ministers and the public that adequate provision for local service delivery is being made, there is equal access to specialist resources, service provision and partnership working is of sound quality and strong scrutiny arrangements are in place. This allows them to maintain a good awareness of how well we are functioning and build intelligence to inform future inspections.

By the end of the period 2016/17 it is planned that SFRS service provision will have been examined in nine local authority areas. These areas were Aberdeen City, East Renfrewshire, Western Isles, West Lothian, Dundee, South Ayrshire, Scottish Borders, Moray and Glasgow City. Once prepared, these inspection reports are published by HMFSI on their [website](#).

On examining the published Local Area Inspection Reports, we noted that HMFSI generally felt there was a need to identify unique characteristics for each local area and provide clearer use of risk-based evidence to identify and shape priorities across our Local Plans. They would also like to see a stronger emphasis made on specific local priorities and contribution supported by appropriate level of local performance measures. Local priorities and measures should be balanced against our national needs as well as aligned to the collaborative partnership working requirements of Local Outcome Improvement Plan delivery.

HM Fire Service Inspectorate carried out a Local Area Inspection of Moray in November through to December of 2016. The Local Senior Officer is awaiting receipt of the Inspectorates report and will consider any recommendations that they may make in the development of the new Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Moray.

## **CONCLUSION**

Although the current Local Fire and Rescue Plan has served the area well and we have made good progress against all priorities and indicators. It is acknowledged there is scope to widen our priorities through our contribution to meeting the outcomes in the Moray Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

Staff within the area are committed to making a full commitment to making our communities within Moray safer.

We have made significant process in relation to the delivery of Home Fire Safety Visits and Community Safety and Engagement activity within the area since the beginning of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, this has been achieved through strong visible leadership, staff engagement, commitment to partnership working and developing our partnerships, and a willingness from all staff to contribute to making Moray a safer place to live, work and visit.

Particular areas that we will develop during the revision of the local plan is our Youth Engagement Strategy and how we can expand our contribution to take account of wider issues than deliberate Fire Setting and Road Casualty Reduction.

From an incident response perspective we have performed well along with partners to emergencies throughout Moray. We will continue to build on this by working with partners through civil contingencies and the Local Resilience Partnership to ensure that joint training and exercising is conducted for the risks within Moray and that staff are confident and competent in the roles that they undertake.

Through the work of both managers and station based staff at a local level the recruitment of Retained staff has improved. We realise that this is an area requiring continual focus and are committed to maintaining establishment levels within the area.

## **NEW DRAFT LOCAL PRIORITIES FOR MORAY LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN 2017-20**

It is proposed the following new Priorities are taken forward in the new Local Fire and Rescue Plan for the Moray area:

**Priority 1:** Reducing Unintentional Harm within the Home and Casualties associated with this

**Priority 2:** Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour

**Priority 3:** Non-Fire Emergencies and Casualties associated with these

**Priority 4:** Reducing Fires in Non-Domestic Properties

**Priority 5:** Reducing the number of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

**Priority 6:** Improving Community and Local Resilience

The above proposed priorities will be included within the impending new draft Moray Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2017-20 soon to be issued for formal consultation.