

Members' Library Service Request Form

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Document Title	Response to "Your Service...Your Voice: A consultation on the safe and planned future of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service"

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Additional information:

This is an officer response to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's consultation which closed on 14 May 2018. Find the consultation paper itself at http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/media/1274994/SFRS_Consultation_doc_v1_0_12Feb_digital_toPrint.pdf

Authorised By	Monica Patterson
Designation	Depute Chief Executive
Date	15/05/18

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Submitted to **Your Service...Your Voice: A consultation on the safe and planned future of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**
Submitted on **2018-05-10 16:05:55**

Your Details

What is your name?

Name:

Monica Patterson, Depute Chief Executive: Partnerships and Community Services

What is your email address?

Email:

mepatterson@eastlothian.gov.uk

Are you responding on*:

who are you responding on behalf of:

An organisation

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

East Lothian Council

Your Service

Do you agree with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service overall vision for Transformation

Please say in the box below what the main benefits for Scotland will be :

Your Voice

Statement

opinion - I trust the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to change its operating model – including station footprint - in ways that are safe for Scotland:

No opinion

opinion - Firefighters should be trained and equipped to meet the new and emerging risks Scotland faces:

No opinion

opinion - Firefighters should be rewarded for taking on an expanded role, and in accordance with the risks they take:

No opinion

opinion - Latest technology should be used where possible to improve firefighter and public safety:

No opinion

opinion - Firefighters could be trained to take on roles that would reduce the burden on other public services:

No opinion

opinion - A more flexible approach to crewing during the late evening and early morning hours would allow firefighters to do more during the day when demand is higher.:

No opinion

Please say why you agreed or disagreed, in the box below::

What single thing is most important to you about the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service?:

Ensuring public safety through responding and adapting to local circumstances.

Do you think there is anything the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service should NOT do as part of transformation?:

Do you have any final comment to make on the transformation of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service?:

I would like to express support in principle for the transformation exercise the SFRS is currently undertaking. However, I cannot stress highly enough the importance of continuing to consult locally on specific proposals for local change. The SFRS is of course a community planning partner in East Lothian, and is therefore committed to the partnership's Local Outcomes Improvement Plan – the "East Lothian Plan". That Plan sets out obligations for the treatment of assets, specifically that surplus assets be repurposed where appropriate for employment land or affordable housing. We have partnership asset planning arrangements in East Lothian to advance best use of assets.

Council colleagues can see some opportunities where closer working between the council and SFRS may well benefit our residents and reduce costs.

a) We are already working with SFRS on falls prevention for older/vulnerable people and there is real potential there to reduce or delay the demand on health and social care including hospital admissions. The paper mentions installation of simple equipment; SFRS could connect residents needing help with the East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership local service HILDA (Health and Independent Living with Daily Activities), which involves a self-assessment website for a wide range of equipment including walking aids, grab rails, sensors and height-adjustable work surfaces.

b) SFRS could become involved in the development of our technology-enabled care service to help identify and possibly install some technology for low-level-self-assessed need or to jointly provide a community alarm installation and annual servicing team who could also undertake wider risk assessments in the home.

c) SFRS are already involved in programmes to divert people from offending and further engagement would be helpful here (also in programmes to reduce reoffending) as we think there is some unmet capacity in this regard.

d) Shared accommodation is another area which may be fruitful. The Council is already some way towards shared accommodation with Police Scotland in Haddington and there may be scope for more, particularly if SFRS become more involved in safety and prevention activity. SFRS could also possibly offer hot-desking facilities in their stations for other public service workers.

e) More broadly, the SFRS could become involved in activities connected to inspection and enforcement for protective services such as environmental health and trading standards. With some training, they could become observers during their activities out in the community, to alert council colleagues to new businesses, fly tipping etc where they see it, which would allow council staff to focus in on relevant issues and incidents.

f) With the challenges in mind of the recent wintry weather, could SFRS colleagues be integrated in the local response to severe weather? Examples:

- in severe winter weather they could use their 4 x 4 vehicles to take care workers to clients, and supply vulnerable people with essential supplies such as oxygen or medicines – even food in extreme cases.
- could vehicles or equipment be adapted for snow clearance?

g) We anticipate that the work suggested above would be supplementary to the continuing activity of the Council, rather than replacing it.

h) The SFRS will want to avoid being spread too thinly and I would hope that locally we could jointly identify priorities for working together.

I do not wish my response to be published

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No