

THE HIGHLAND AND ISLANDS FIRE BOARD

10 September 2009

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP ENGAGEMENT AND SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENTS

Report by Chief Fire Officer

Agenda Item	
Report No	

Summary

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the approach that the Service is adopting to ensure the appropriate level of engagement and support for the Community Planning Partnerships which develop Single Outcome Agreements and lead joint work within each of the Constituent Authorities.

Background

The Concordat between the Scottish Government and COSLA agreed in November 2007 set out the terms of a new relationship between the Scottish Government and local government, based on mutual respect and partnership. It underpins the funding provided to local government over the period 2008-09 to 2010-2011.

A central element of the new relationship was the ending of most ring fencing of local government funding and the creation of a Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) between each Council, initially, and the Scottish Government, based on the 15 National Outcomes. All SOAs from 2009 -10 onward are between each Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and the Scottish Government. A SOA is the means by which CPPs agree their strategic priorities for their local area and express those priorities as outcomes to be delivered by the partners, either individually or jointly, while showing how those outcomes should contribute to the Scottish Government's relevant National Outcomes.

Each local Authority has agreed to progress the Scottish Government's 15 National outcomes, with each local Community Planning Partnership (CPP) acting as the coordinating group. Through the CPP, parties agree to use the SOA as the starting point for their own strategic plans ensuring there is a clear, defined link from the SOA to the strategic plans of their own organisations. Both elected members and officers are involved in the groups.

HIFRS CPP Approach

In recognising the value of the CPP's and to facilitate meaningful engagement to fulfil the objectives of the second iteration of SOA's, HIFRS intend the following;

- A single principal officer from HIFRS will act as the co-ordinating link for SOA planning.

- A principal officer will be identified as the lead officer for each of the constituent authority CPP's
- Whilst the total number of CPP meetings would prohibit the attendance of a principal officer at each meeting, a target to attend a minimum of 2 meetings per year has been set.
- To maintain the Service's involvement at each CPP meeting the responsibility to attend meetings shall be shared as appropriate with District officers.
- To maintain strategic focus the lead principal officer for each CPP will liaise closely with the designated District officer.
- To provide appropriate support to direct SOA objectives HIFRS will provide frequent updates of risk critical information.
- Dedicated elected member representation from the Fire Board is not currently in place on all CPPs although there are normally Fire Board Members present in their capacity as a local councillor. HIFRS will ensure local Board members are briefed on our engagement through the arrangements identified above.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the Service's plans for engagement with the CPP's operating within each of the constituent Authorities.

**BRIAN A MURRAY
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

31 August 2009