

TAYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE BOARD**REPORT BY THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER****1 FEBRUARY 2010**

SCOTTISH COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY STUDY**Abstract**

This Report informs Members of the publication of a document entitled “Scotland Together – A Study examining fire deaths and injuries in Scotland”. The document can be viewed at http://www.strathclydefire.org/pdfs/Scotland_Together_07_09_09.pdf.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members note the contents of this Report and also the contents of the document “Scotland Together – A Study examining fire deaths and injuries in Scotland”.

2. BACKGROUND

In November 2008, in response to a 62% increase in fire deaths in Scotland in 2007-2008 Fergus Ewing MSP, Minister for Community Safety, tasked Chief Officer Brian Sweeney, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, in his role of Community Fire Safety Champion for Scotland, to examine how fire deaths and injuries could be reduced.

Mr Sweeney was asked to consider four main areas:

- i Identify why Scotland faces a disproportionately high number of primary fires (involving property), fire deaths and fire casualties when compared to other parts of the UK and Europe.
- ii Consider why Scotland suffers a high number of secondary fires (refuse, grass, derelict vehicles and derelict buildings).
- iii Review the community safety initiatives currently in place to combat these issues and determine the impact they are having locally and nationally to reduce fire-related deaths, injuries and damage.
- iv Determine how Scottish Government and Local Government can work collaboratively to develop and implement good practice to improve community fire safety in Scotland.

The study concludes that fire deaths are more likely to occur in areas of high deprivation or where individuals are particularly vulnerable due to age or other factors such as alcohol addiction. Many of the issues identified cannot be addressed by fire and rescue services alone. Community Planning Partnerships have a vital role to play in better protecting communities from fires and fire deaths.

The Study contains 37 recommendations to address the findings.

3. CONSIDERATION OF “SCOTLAND TOGETHER – A STUDY OF FIRE DEATHS AND INJURIES IN SCOTLAND BY TAYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE

The contents of this document have been thoroughly considered by Tayside Fire and Rescue. Much of this document supports the comprehensive work which has been undertaken by Tayside Fire and Rescue over recent years to analyse the risk to our communities from fire and identify how we can work to reduce that risk.

Tayside Fire and Rescue are key partners in the three constituent councils' Community Planning Partnerships and Members are well aware of the numerous community safety initiatives developed and delivered by the service, including the high profile Alcohol – Fuel for Fire and Don't Bring Death to Your Home campaigns.

Tayside Fire and Rescue is also working with the other seven Scottish fire and rescue services to consider the 37 recommendations from a Scotland-wide perspective.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct or immediate financial implications arising from this Report or the contents of the Study document. Any future financial implications of delivering any of the recommendations will be brought before the Board as appropriate.

5. CONSULTATION

The Clerk and Treasurer have been consulted in the preparation of this Report.

6. CONCLUSION

Tayside Fire and Rescue welcomes the publication of this Study. Whilst much of the contents support the current work of Tayside Fire and Rescue to reduce the risk to our communities from fire, the contents are being fully considered at local and national level to identify further ways to make our communities safer from fire.

S Hunter
Chief Fire Officer

Background Papers

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

Fire and Rescue Headquarters
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