DATA PROTECTION
TO AID THE COMPILATION OF THE MINUTES, THEY ARE RECORDED ELECTRONICALLY AND SUBSEQUENTLY ERASED ONCE THEY ARE RELEASED
ANY CONCERNS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIR

FORRES AREA FORUM REPORTS AGENDA
Wednesday 4th November 2026

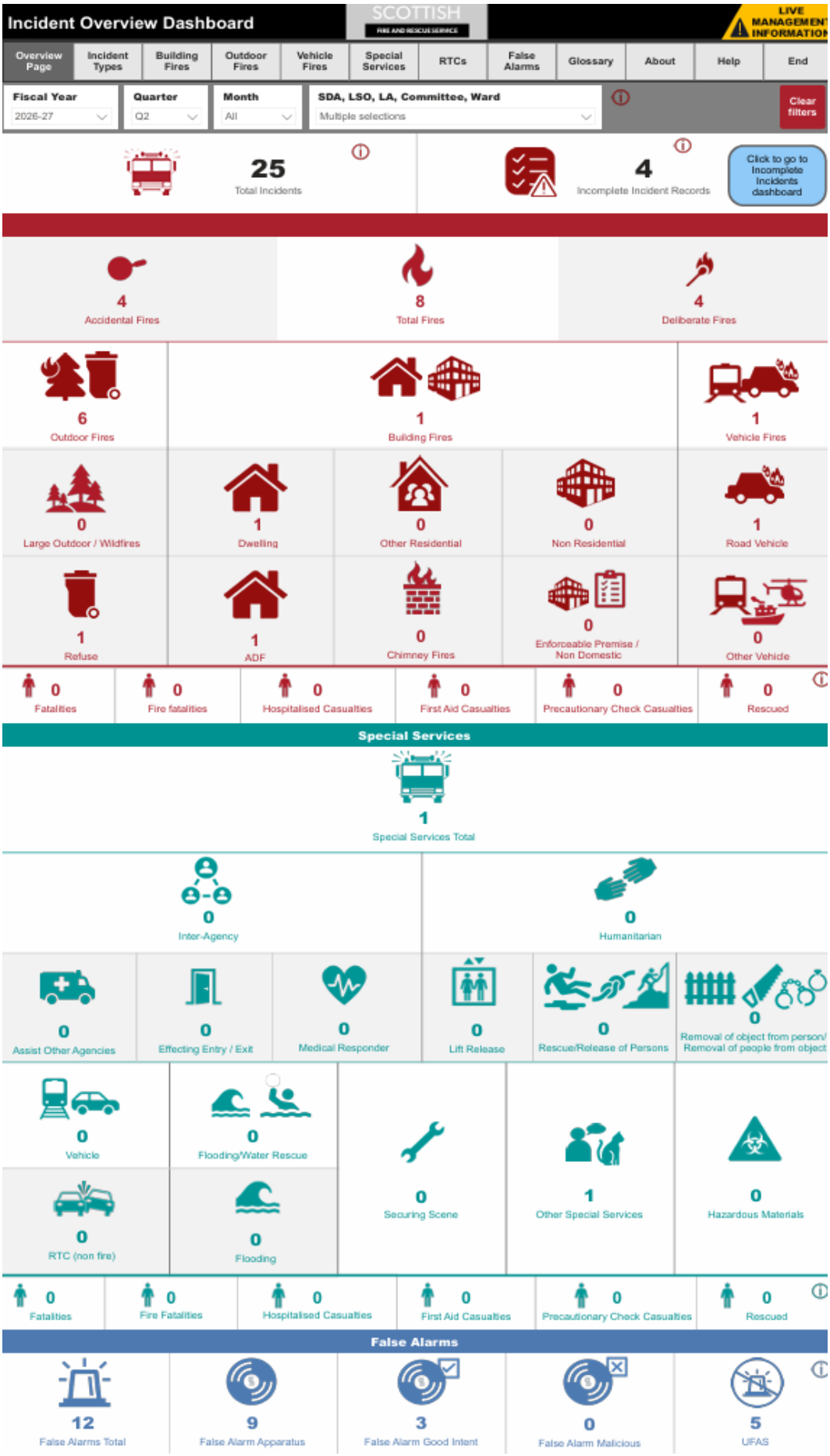
1.	**Welcome and Apologies**	
2.	**Minute of meeting held on Wednesday 7th October 2026** Proposed – Seconded -	
3.	**Matters arising**	
4.	**Treasurer's report**	
5.	**Correspondence** • STP Funding Finder October 2026 •	
6.	**FACT update**	
7.	**Forres Conservation and Heritage Scheme** Culture day at Forres was successful and High Street Histories (online) along with Stories from the Shadows were launched by HA. Both are now available to access via https://forres.highstreethistories.scot Over 100 visitors attended the event at the Tolbooth. Building health check reports finalising; grant scheme applications launch later in year. Public Realm Phase 1 works (railings, benches) agreed on costs, targeting start by year-end. Phase 1 works include refurbishment of the railings at Mosset Green (Bridge Street Entrance), repair works to the wall underneath	

	the railings, and the installation of benches at Mosset Green and The Needle. Also looking to install 5 new picnic benches at the play area and Mather's café in Grant Park. SCHS will procure Greening/Heritage Coordinator, Vacant Property Study, Training, Stage 2 Repairs and Interpretation Install. Next PMG meeting by year end, seeking Chair/Vice Chair nomination; Keava's contact has ended and she has now left the team.	
8.	**Spirit of Community 2022/3 & Local Place Plan** Next stage is to communicate with groups who have been working hard to improve our community through various projects which we have still to record/update on the SoC Spread Sheet.	AR SM TC
9.	**Moray Forum** – Date of Next Meeting – unknown.	
10.	**Transport Forum** – no updates received.	
11.	**Forres Leisure User Group Meeting** No update from last meeting – next meeting of this group is planned for Monday, 26th October 2026 – 6.00pm – 7.00pm FHCC Green Room Agenda items include • Report back on previous group activities. • Facility Action List Update • Sport and Leisure Service Update	AR Attending
12.	**Active Moray Strategy and Plan) (AR)** No further update since last meeting.	
13.	**Moray Healthy Weights Systems Network** A most informative online meeting focussing on Worrying About Money leading into Poverty week and our own raising awareness session for the over 60's. Good networking opportunity and contact has been made with various partners who would be willing to support the work of FAF. AR will be meeting and making further contact with those who showed interest in the work of the Forum.	AR attending
14.	**Forres Events – Friends of Grant Park**	KR
15.	**Forres Area Forum – Support Sessions to the over 60's** 14.10.26 Over 60's Benefit and Support Raising Awareness session. **EVALUATION** Partnership working	AR

	• Forres Area Forum • Forres OAP Group • Moray Food Plus – Wendy Laing • Combat Poverty – Lewis Watt • Quarriers – Lindsay Murray Areas Covered using presentation • Benefit Entitlements • Help available with completing Benefit Forms • General energy saving advice • Help with managing fuel debt • Accessing energy grants and funding • Help with accessing financial support • Other support available for those who are carers During the refreshment time the presenters chatted with individuals, gleaning information that will trigger further one-to-one consultation allowing for confidentiality and establishing direct needs for each individual requesting support. Evaluation of event Total in attendance – 29 This number included 3 presenters and one volunteer helper all under 60. The remaining 25 were all pensioners over the age of 60. (Pensioners - 6 males and 19 females). At the presentation those present were asked to respond to the following questions: 1. Hands up if you have learned something from this presentation. (22 people). 2. Hands up if you were amazed at some of the financial help that people managed to access. (20 people). 3. Hands up if you think this raising awareness session has been interesting/beneficial. (26) The one person who did not wish to hear the presentation was hard of hearing but had already gone through this process and felt that they had received all that they can apply for. During refreshments - (These were well received) All deliverers were approached for further information. Approximately 60% of 25 pensioners approached Wendy to make further enquiries regarding	

	Benefits. A few more requested her business card to make contact at a later date. The delivers were all pleased with the afternoon session and would welcome other opportunities to repeat the session. Wendy and Lindsay conversed and they are to look at holding a drop in afternoon session at the Quarriers Office in Elgin. This will also allow those working there to be more informed and can direct people to Wendy who will be given space in the office for consultations with clients. Further discussion was also had on a possible funding source for the OAP group to allow them to continue to operate at Forres Town Hall. Guidance and direction was given to the Treasurer and encouragement to submit a grant application quickly to the Auchernack Trust. The event was a success as people engaged during and after the presentation requesting support as they move forward with an application. It will be interesting to find out the monetary value once all claims have been submitted. It is a difficult topic to put across to people; many put up barriers and may not admit they require some assistance, however piggy backing onto the OAP group meeting certainly allowed us to have a captured audience and there was no stigmatism as it was put across as an awareness exercise, those present could benefit but they could also inform others of who to make contact with to get advice and direction, potentially assisting them in their everyday lives, improving their Wellbeing and personal situation, meeting their needs. Partnership Working with more than one organisation also allows the session to meet a number of needs across the different categories, cost saving and an opportunity for the partners to build relationships and have a better understanding of each other's roles and responsibilities. This may lead for future shared deliveries which can be cost saving, better use of time, space and resources. Worrying about Money Leaflets were also handed out – thanks to Sabine Goodwin for getting them delivered to Ann in time for the event. Thanks also to the Auchernack Trust for covering the cost of the hire of facility and refreshments/hospitality and to Wendy, Lewis and Lindsay for their information session deliveries. The session was timely planned to fit into National Poverty Week and well received by all in attendance.	
16.	**Round the Table**	
17.	**Councillors**	

18. **Fire Report**



19.	**AOB** • Sunday, 6th December – Tea and Cake (3.00pm – 3.30pm)– Concert with Kate O'Connell's Acappella Choir (3.30pm – 4.30pm) • Sunday, 13th December – Christmas Carol Concert with Sing Moray & Forres Youth Choir – times to follow.	
20.	**Date of next meeting** 4th November 2026 at 7pm, venue North Room, Forres Town Hall	

Meeting dates in 2026: 2nd December

Meeting dates in 2027: 6th January, 3rd February, 3rd March, 7th April, 5th May, 2nd June, 7th July, 4th August, 1st September, 6th October, 3rd November and 1st December

For further information please email: forresareaforum@btinternet.com