

Minute of Meeting Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 17 August 2021	15:00	Council Chambers (Renfrewshire), Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

PRESENT

Councillors E Devine, M McGurk, J MacLaren, M MacLaren and J McNaughtan.

CHAIR

Councillor McGurk, Convener, presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

M Crearie, Director of Communities & Housing Services; O Reid, Head of Communities & Public Protection and C Dalrymple, Communities & Regulatory Manager (both Communities & Housing Services); C MacDonald, Senior Committee Services Officer; K O'Neill, Assistant Democratic Services Officer and D Pole, End User Technician (all Finance & Resources).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

D Duncan, Chief Superintendent and J Kyle, Chief Inspector (both Police Scotland); D McCarrey, Area Commander and M Hill, Group Manager, (Scottish Fire & Rescue Service).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

RECORDING OF MEETING

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Convener intimated that this meeting of the Sub-committee would be webcast live via the Council's website and outlined the basic rules to be followed by participants at a hybrid meeting.

Thereafter the Clerk undertook a roll call of members in attendance at the meeting, indicating those in the Council Chamber and those participating remotely.

1 **SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE - RENFREWSHIRE PERFORMANCE REPORT - 1 APRIL - 30 JUNE 2021**

There was submitted a report by the Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) relative to SFRS performance and local fire and rescue service plan priorities in the Renfrewshire area during period 1 April to 30 June 2021.

The report provided updates in relation to Renfrewshire activity, accidental dwelling fires and casualties, unintentional injury and harm, deliberate fire setting, non-domestic fire safety and unwanted fire alarm signals.

Non-fire casualties had shown an increase of 60% (9 incidents) when compared to the same quarter last year, however the three-year average trend continued to decline. The report identified an increase of 26% (10 incidents) in Accidental Dwelling Fires and detailed factors which contributed to these. One fatality was recorded, with the remaining cases being slight injuries. An increase in deliberate fire setting of 27% (50) incidents was reported compared to Q1 last year. Secondary fires accounted for 91% of activity within that indicator.

A decrease of 15% in non-domestic incidents was reported with no firefighting action required in 4 cases. Residential care homes remained the highest category of reported incidents.

DECIDED: That the contents of the report be noted.

2 **SPOTLIGHT BY SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE ON UNWANTED FIRE ALARM SIGNALS (UFAS)/TAKE-5**

A presentation was made by the Area Commander of Scottish Fire & Rescue Service on Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)/TAKE-5 and the measures which would be implemented to reduce the numbers. A public consultation on Options for Responding to Automatic Fire Alarms (AFAs) had commenced on 19 July 2021 for a period of 12 weeks. The responses to the consultation would be used to identify the best response to AFAs, to reduce the burden placed on the Service and partners by unwanted fire alarm signals and allow use of resources more effectively and help to make our communities even safer.

Information was provided on how often UAFAs occur, the number each year, the costs incurred and the percentage of these of incidents attended which were unintentional. AFA's are the main factor and only 2% of calls initiated by AFA's were actual fire related events. The number of these had increased annually since 2013/14.

DECIDED: That the presentation be noted.

3 **POLICE SCOTLAND RENFREWSHIRE PERFORMANCE SUMMARY REPORT - 1 APRIL - 30 JUNE 2021**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland, relative to service performance and activities in the Renfrewshire area during the period 1 April to 30 June 2021.

The report summarised the key performance indicators and provided statistics relating to the specific key objectives detailed in the Renfrewshire Local Policing Plan 2020/21, together with comparative data. The report provided, in an infographics format, local updates in relation to the Police Scotland priorities of violence and anti-social behaviour; acquisitive crime; public protection; major crime & terrorism and road safety & road crime.

Violence against emergency workers had fallen as compared to the previous year, with 58 of 434 common assaults targeting police and other emergency workers (compared to 74 in the same period the previous year). The volume of recorded crime and offences had fallen by 3.5% on the previous year and by 12.8% on the preceding five year average, with a longer term decrease in non-sexual crimes of violence, crimes of dishonesty, fire raising and malicious mischief.

The Chief Superintendent advised that water safety was the subject of increased focus following the tragic death of one person in Renfrewshire within the last quarter. Multi-agency focus groups had been established and would be engaging with schools and other youth groups to increase awareness of the risks around water.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

4 **POLICE SCOTLAND AND SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY (SPA) - REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL POLICE PLANS**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Communities and Housing Services relative to the review of the development of Local Police Plans.

Under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, local policing commanders prepare a Local Police Plan (LPP) for each of Scotland's 32 local authorities. The Local Police Plan sets out the approach to policing in the area and was shared with the appropriate local authority for the area. The above Act required Local Police Plans to be reviewed at least every three years or whenever a new Strategic Police Plan (SPP) was agreed. The latest Strategic Police Plan, known as the Joint Strategy for Policing - Policing for a Safe, Protected and Resilient Scotland ('the Strategy') was approved in 2020. The Act sets out the areas for inclusion in the Local Police Plans and included: the priorities, objectives and arrangements for policing in the local area; an overview of how these were determined; the contribution of policing to local and community planning; and information on performance monitoring.

Police Scotland, the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) and COSLA had agreed to collaborate on a review of the development of the latest Local Police Plans to identify areas of development and best practice which would then inform future local planning processes. The review sought the views of local authority elected members and officials involved in the last planning cycle and leading on scrutiny of local policing, in addition to the views of Police Scotland's divisional and local commanders. It was

predicted that the review would conclude in 2021/22 allowing learning from the review to be incorporated into the planning process for the next round of Local Police Plans.

The first stage of the review and an initial short survey was launched by Police Scotland and the SPA on 27 June 2021. In the response Renfrewshire Council welcomed the opportunity to respond to the short survey and feed into the wider review of local police plans. A response, which was attached as Appendix 1 to the report, had been prepared and submitted on behalf of the Council prior to 31 July 2021 which was within the timescales set.

DECIDED:

(a) That the on-going review of local police plans and the launch of the first phase with a short survey be noted; and

(b) That the consultation response detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, submitted on behalf of the Council by the Director of Communities and Housing Services, be homologated.

5 POLICE SCOTLAND PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE USE OF BODY WORN VIDEO (BWV) CAMERAS

There was submitted a report by the Director of Communities and Housing Services relative to Police Scotland Public Consultation on the use of Body Worn Video (BWV) Cameras launched on 1 June 2021. The final date for submissions to the consultation was 20 August 2021. The response from the Council would be submitted within the timescales set by Police Scotland and a draft of this was attached for approval as Appendix 1.

Police Scotland had recently undertaken a national public consultation on BWV Cameras being used by armed police officers, particularly in relation to the COP26 event in Glasgow in October/November 2021. Due to the positive response received to this consultation, Police Scotland were now consulting on whether all police officers should wear body worn video cameras.

Officers from Police Scotland had provided a briefing paper on the proposed use of BWV Cameras to the last Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee on 18 May 2021.

The report provided details of the benefits that had been identified in using Body Worn Video cameras and the supporting Digital Evidence Management (DEM) software which would benefit Police Scotland, the public and partners.

Renfrewshire Council had approved the use of BWV Cameras in 2010 for the Renfrewshire Warden service and these were now part of PPE for all situations, and were used, if necessary, in the conduct of their role. The proposed consultation response built on this positive experience and made recommendations relating to the use, governance and training required for officers making use of this technology.

DECIDED:

(a) That the publication of the consultation by Police Scotland on the use of Body Worn Video (BWV) cameras be noted; and

(b) That the Council's consultation response as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report be approved.

6 **LOCAL ISSUES**

Councillor J MacLaren raised the issue of Police Scotland not attending Community Council meetings recently. The Chief Superintendent of Police Scotland advised that as the meetings were held using Zoom platform they were unable to join as this system is not approved for use by Police Scotland. He further advised that in future Police Scotland would attempt to connect by telephone and would also ensure that written reports would be provided for all Community Councils.

DECIDED: That the information provided by the Chief Superintendent be noted.