

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

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 19 January 2021	15:00	Microsoft Teams Meeting,

Present

Councillors B Binks, B Brown, M McGurk, K 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 (all Communities & Housing Services); D Pole, End User Technician; R Devine and C MacDonald, both Senior Committee Services Officers (all Finance & Resources).

Also in Attendance

A Murray, Chief Superintendent, D Pettigrew, Superintendent and R Fraser, Chief Inspector (all Police Scotland); J McNeill, 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 recorded and that the recording would be available to view on the Council's website.

1 Police Scotland Scrutiny Board Report

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 31 October 2020.

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.

It was highlighted that there had been an overall downward trend in both serious and minor violence crimes with a decrease of 13% in Group 1 crimes, which equated to 25 fewer victims, 100 fewer common assaults and 70 fewer serious assaults recorded than in the same period last year. A significant decrease in acquisitive crime was also reported, with shoplifting crimes reduced by 40.5%, while a decrease by 7.9% in domestic abuse crimes had also been reported compared to the same period during 2019 and which went against the national trend. Although nine bogus crimes had been reported during this period, six more than the previous year, it was emphasised that that this figure was likely to be higher as victims did not always report this type of crime. The Covid-19 pandemic provided additional opportunities for cybercriminals to target victims and it was noted that cyber-crimes had increased with significant amounts of money involved.

An update was provided in respect of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on policing.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

2 Scottish Fire & Rescue Service - Renfrewshire Performance Report

There was submitted a report, in an infographics format, by the Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) relative to SFRS performance and activities in the Renfrewshire area during the reporting period 1 October to 31 December 2020.

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

connection with Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) the Sub-Committee was advised that it was anticipated that arrangements regarding implementation of the Take 5 initiative within the Renfrewshire area would be submitted to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

An update was provided in respect of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Fire and Rescue Service.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

3 Local Issues Update

DECIDED: No updates in relation to local issues were provided.

Valedictory

Councillor McGurk advised that this was the last meeting of the Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub-Committee that Chief Superintendent A Murray would be attending and took the opportunity to express appreciation, personally and on behalf of the Sub-Committee, Renfrewshire Council and the residents of Renfrewshire, for his efforts and commitment locally. Reference was made to the exemplary advice and assistance he had provided and to his involvement in various initiatives with vulnerable individuals. The Convener wished Chief Superintendent A Murray well for the future.