

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

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 15 January 2019	15:00	Corporate Meeting Room 1, Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

Present

Councillor John Hood, Councillor Marie McGurk, Councillor John McNaughtan, Councillor Iain Nicolson, Councillor Jane Strang

Chair

Councillor McGurk, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

M Crearie, Director of Communities, Housing & Planning Services; O Reid, Head of Communities & Public Protection and C Dalrymple, Communities and Regulatory Manager (both Communities, Housing and Planning Services); and K O'Neill, Assistant Democratic Services Officer (Finance & Resources).

Also in Attendance

S Wright, Chief Inspector and D Leitch, Superintendent (both Police Scotland); and M Gallacher, Group Manager and J Barr, Station Manager (both Scottish Fire & Rescue Service).

Declarations of Interest

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

1 Consultation on HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) Scrutiny Plan 2019-20

There was submitted a report by the Director of Communities, Housing & Planning Services relative to consultation on HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland's (HMICS) Scrutiny Plan 2019/20.

The report advised that HMICS had undertaken strategic engagement with Police Scotland, Force Executive and Divisional Commanders between November 2018 and January 2019 which allowed them to maintain a good understanding of current issues which affected policing and to ensure that their future scrutiny activity focused on the right issues in the right areas.

To support the process, HMICS had sought the views of key stakeholders, including local councils, to ascertain whether there were any topical, high-risk or emerging areas in policing that should be included within the 2019/20 Scrutiny Plan. The response developed and submitted by Renfrewshire Council, prior to the deadline of 21 December 2018, was appended to the report for homologation. It was noted that the response welcomed the development of a HMICS Scrutiny Plan for 2019/20 and sought continued focus on key national issues. At K Division level, Police Scotland had worked closely with the Council and with the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service to develop an innovative collaborative learning approach shared across key agencies and which sought to integrate local actions and priorities into the Local Outcome Improvement Plan to develop shared accountability across strategic objectives for the benefit of communities across Renfrewshire.

It was highlighted that local relationships with Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority were excellent and the response highlighted the strength of the relationship.

DECIDED:

(a) That the consultation on the HMICS Scrutiny Plan 2019/20 be noted; and

(b) That the action by the Director of Communities, Housing & Planning Services in submitting the Council's consultation response, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be homologated.

2 HMICS and HMIPS - Reports on the Review of Arrangements for Home Detention Curfew

There was submitted a report by the Director of Communities, Housing & Planning Services relative to the review by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) to determine the 'state, effectiveness and efficiency' of both Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority and HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland (HMIPS) to independently assess the processes operated in the Scottish Prison Services with respect to the Home Detention Curfew system.

The report advised that a review of arrangements for Home Detention Curfew had been undertaken following the murder committed locally by an offender who was 'unlawfully at large'.

A short-life working group established by the Scottish Prison Service and Police Scotland had been created to develop and change processes, assess what could be done differently and identify any learning that might arise.

Following the review, both organisations made a number of recommendations HMICS (16) and HMIPS (21) that had either already been implemented or would be considered moving forward. Chief Inspector Wright indicated that a number of recommendations could require a change in legislation which restricted progress at this time and further updates would be provided at future meetings.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the reviews undertaken by HMICS and HMIPS on arrangements for home detention curfew be noted;
- (b) That confirmation of progress being made in implementing the recommendations in the HMICS report that had particular reference to Police operations at a local level be noted; and
- (c) That further updates be provided where changes to legislation were required to implement the recommendations.

3 Spotlight - Police Scotland Group 2 Crimes/Trends

There was submitted a report by the Public Protection Unit (Police Scotland), relative to statistical data for the period April to November 2018 concerning sexual crime in Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Divisions.

The report indicated that Group 2 crime incorporated a range of sexual offences ranging from serious sexual offences such as rape and indecent and sexual assault, to public indecency, sexual exposure, indecent communications and taking, distributing or possessing indecent photographs of children.

The Sub-committee was informed of a steady increase in the volume of reports of sexual crime in Renfrewshire and Inverclyde, and by extension throughout the entire Police Scotland area.

The report indicated that the volume of non-recent reporting had increased considerably in recent years and as a result more than 41% of sexual offences reported in 2018/19 were non-recent in nature.

DECIDED: That the information provided be noted.

4 Spotlight - Scottish Fire & Rescue Service - Deliberate Fire Raising

There was submitted a report by the Local Senior Fire Office relative to statistical data for the period 1 October to 31 December 2018 concerning incidents of deliberate fire raising locally and nationally; those Council wards where the volume of deliberate fires was highest; and the nature of incidents and activities undertaken by Scottish Fire & Rescue Service and numerous other agencies, including Police Scotland, Community Wardens and Housing to address the situation.

The report advised that the success of prevention and intervention activities and provision of fire safety advice to the public was measured around a number of outcome-based performance indicators. A multi-agency approach to dealing with fire offending and offenders was an effective way of protecting persons and property from fire, reducing operational response costs, and improving fire and fire-related performance indicators. A number of measures had been adopted and included bonfire education with children and young people and information exchange with Police Scotland at daily hub meetings.

The report indicated that the Prevention and Protection Directorate would provide materials including leaflets, presentations and guidance notes to allow local managers and community action teams to factor in a multi-agency approach to preventing deliberate fire setting across Renfrewshire for the coming year.

DECIDED: That the information provided be noted.

5 Local Issues Update

Chief Inspector Wright, gave a presentation relative to the potential impact of Brexit on services including possible new protocols, impact on arrest warrants and how support could require to be given to police forces in other areas of the United Kingdom. Assurance was given that, if required, provision of support to other areas would not impact on the service provided locally.

He also advised that the recent Winterfest festival held in Renfrewshire had been a success with no issues or increased criminal activity.

The Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service also made reference to the possible impact of Brexit on services provided by the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service and identified that no risks to service provision had been identified.

Both the Chief Officer (Police Scotland) and the Local Senior Officer (Scottish Fire & Rescue Service) indicated that business continuity planning meetings were ongoing.

DECIDED: That the information be noted.