

Minute of Meeting

Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 07 November 2017	14:00	Corporate Meeting Room 1, Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

Present

Councillors McGurk, McNaughtan, Montgomery and Strang.

Chair

Councillor McGurk, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

S MacDougall, Director of Environment & Communities; C Dalrymple, Regulatory & Enforcement Manager and D Kerr, Service Coordination Manager (all Environment & Communities); and R Devine, Senior Committee Services Officer (Finance & Resources).

Also in Attendance

Chief Superintendent G Crossan, Superintendent B Kennedy and Sergeant L MacLaren (all Police Scotland); and D Proctor, Local Senior Officer and M Gallacher, Group Manager (both Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

Declarations of Interest

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

1 Local Policing Plan

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environment & Communities relative to the Renfrewshire Local Policing Plan 2017/20, a copy of which was appended to the report.

The report advised that the Plan detailed the divisional priorities of Police Scotland for the next three years and highlighted that the areas of focus for the Plan were complimentary to the Council's forthcoming Outcome Improvement Plan and that a multi-agency group, operating at a divisional level, would be established to work on the serious organised crime agenda.

The operational arrangements, context, priorities, objectives and effectiveness of the policing model deployed in Renfrewshire since May 2017 were discussed.

DECIDED: That the publication of the Renfrewshire Local Policing Plan 2017/20 be noted.

2 Scottish Police Authority Review of Police Estates

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environment & Communities relative to the Police Scotland Estate Strategy and the Policing 2026 Strategy and, in particular, to the review undertaken of the estate.

The report stated that the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) had approved the Police Scotland Estate Strategy during June 2015. The vision of the Strategy was to enhance service delivery by transforming the estate into one which was modern, flexible and fit for purpose, in line with the Policing 2026 Strategy. Police Scotland had inherited a large estate based on legacy requirements that had developed over a significant period of time when policing demands had been very different from current and anticipated future demands. As part of the review, 53 police stations in Scotland, including those in Quarry Street, Johnstone and Linwood, had been identified as no longer being required to support service delivery and/or for operational reasons and were being considered for potential disposal. The SPA had commenced a period of formal engagement with communities, partners and staff and no decision would be taken prior to the end of January 2018 when the outcome of the consultation would be submitted to the SPA Board for consideration. A summary of the proposed operational arrangements in Johnstone and Linwood was provided.

DECIDED:

(a) That the consultation into the proposed disposal of 53 police stations currently being carried out by the Scottish Police Authority and running up to 31 January, 2018 be noted; and

(b) That the operational implications for the Renfrewshire area arising from the proposals contained within the consultation be noted.

3 Police Scotland Scrutiny Report

There was submitted a report by the Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland, relative to service performance and activities in the Renfrewshire area.

The report summarised the key performance indicators and the appendix to the report provided statistics for the period April to August 2017, relating to the specific key objectives detailed in the Renfrewshire Local Policing Plan 2014/17, together with comparative data for 2016. The report also provided local updates in relation to the Police Scotland priorities of violence, disorder and anti-social behaviour; serious and organised crime; counter terrorism and domestic extremism; protecting people at risk of harm; road policing; and acquisitive crime. The commitment to work with Community Planning partners to keep the people of Scotland and its communities safe and Partnership working were highlighted as critical elements of the strategy.

Crime/incident trends relating to murders, serious assault, domestic abuse, stop and searches, theft by housebreaking, detection of sexual crimes and road traffic casualties were discussed. Mention was made by members of the Sub-Committee and the Police Scotland representatives of the positive impact of the local community policing model on the crime/incident trends during the reporting period. An invitation was extended to members of the Sub-committee to attend a future morning briefing.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

4 Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Scrutiny Report

There was submitted a report by the Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) relative to SFRS performance and activities in the Renfrewshire area during the first and second quarters of 2017/18.

The report highlighted improvements across a range of performance indicators and identified areas where further interventions were required. Over the period there had been a decrease in the number of accidental dwelling fires from 96 in the same period in 2016/17 to 87 in the current reporting period; the total number of all non-fatal fire casualties had decreased from 24 to 17; the total number of incidents involving deliberate fire raising had decreased from 490 to 357; the total number of fires in non-domestic premises had decreased from 42 to 33; the number of unwanted fire alarm signal incidents had increased from 380 to 461; the total number of non-fatal road traffic collisions attended by the Service had decreased from 46 to 39; and the number of recorded casualties had decreased from 49 to 37. The appendix to the report provided a detailed analysis of performance and activities.

The pro-active approach to minimising the fire safety risk in high rise blocks adopted locally, the beneficial impact of the Bonfire event in Paisley Town Centre and the work undertaken by the Council to uplift waste materials prior to 5 November and reduce the requirement of the Fire and Rescue Service to attend at 'unauthorised' bonfires in the Renfrewshire area, and an act of violence perpetrated against Fire and Rescue Service officers locally were discussed.

The report also detailed a number of priorities and interventions, specifically highlighting the Local Area Liaison Officer's attendance at the daily tasking meeting within Renfrewshire Safety Hub; the Community Action Team (CAT) engagement with a number of key partners to promote fire safety within the home and the wider unintentional harm agenda; a number of information/awareness events that had been conducted by the CAT to support the work of the SFRS Spring Thematic Action Plan which included talks on deliberate fires and water safety around reservoirs; and the number of home fire safety visits carried out in Renfrewshire during the reporting period.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

5 Spotlight - Community Policing: First six months

Superintendent B Kennedy (Police Scotland) gave a presentation relative to the first six months of Community Policing in the Renfrewshire area.

The local policing model had been implemented on 4 April 2017 and reference was made to the rationale for introduction, making reference to Police Scotland priorities and objectives, local service demands, the consultation undertaken and the key areas of the Policing 2026 programme. A brief summary of how Community Policing operated locally, the training provided to Community Officers and the benefits to both Police Scotland and the community was provided. An evaluation of the first six months was currently being undertaken. However it was noted that anecdotal feedback received to date had been positive. Local community groups would be encouraged to participate in the evaluation by providing feedback of their experience.

DECIDED: That the information provided be noted.

6 Spotlight on Vulnerable Adults

Superintendent B Kennedy (Police Scotland) and Group Manager M Gallacher (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service) gave a presentation relative to vulnerable adults.

An overview and analysis of the Services' involvement with vulnerable adults during 2016/17 was provided. Reference was also made to the partnership working, particularly information sharing, undertaken to address factors which resulted in vulnerable individuals requiring the Police and Fire & Rescue Service to intervene, which consequently impacted on the level of service available for other users.

The sympathetic collaborative approach adopted locally, the procedures available to intervene, training provided to partner organisation employees and the associated resource implications were discussed.

DECIDED: That the information provided be noted.