

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

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 10 March 2020	15:00	Corporate Meeting Room 1, Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

Present

Councillors Binks, Brown, McGurk, Mags MacLaren and McNaughtan.

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); Carol Burt, Project Manager, I Am Me and K O'Neill, Assistant Democratic Services Officer (Finance & Resources).

Also in Attendance

A Murray, Chief Superintendent and R Fraser, Chief Inspector (both Police Scotland); G Binning, Local Senior Officer, M Hill, Group Manager, (both Scottish Fire & Rescue Service) and F Miller, Scottish Police Authority.

Declarations of Interest

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

1 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 for the period 1 April 2019 - 31 January 2020.

The report summarised the key performance indicators and provided statistics relating to the specific key objectives detailed in the Renfrewshire Local Policing Plan 2017/20, together with comparative data.

The report also 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.

The Chief Superintendent intimated that K Division Public Protection Unit was one of the best performing in Scotland.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

2 Consultation on the Joint Strategy for Policing (2020)

There was submitted a report by the Director of Communities, Housing & Planning Services relative to the consultation on the Joint Strategy for Policing (2020).

The report advised that the Police 2026 - 10 year strategy for policing in Scotland consultation on 27 February 2017. Renfrewshire Council had responded to this consultation had been launched with the final strategy being published in June 2017. At that time, it was agreed that the strategy and implementation plan would be reviewed in 2020.

In this connection the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) and Police Scotland had launched the consultation on 20 January 2020 and a copy of the draft response prepared and submitted on behalf of Renfrewshire Council was attached as Appendix 1.

Renfrewshire Council had welcomed the opportunity to respond to the consultation. The outcomes within the document were aligned to those of Communities and Public Protection and it was noted that Renfrewshire Council would continue to work with Police Scotland as part of the Renfrewshire Community Safety partnership.

The final date for submissions to the consultation was 2 March 2020. A response had been prepared and submitted on behalf of the Council within the timescales set and was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

DECIDED:

(a) That the consultation on the Joint Strategy for Policing (2020) be noted; and

(b) That the consultation response submitted on behalf of the Council by the Director of Communities, Housing & Planning Services, a copy of which was appended to the report, be homologated.

3 Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Scrutiny 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 – 31 December 2019.

The report had been developed to compliment key partnership activity embedded across Renfrewshire Community Plan and associated Delivery and Thematic plans. The report also 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. The Local Senior Officer advised that funding had been secured for the appointment of a Safety Compliance Officer and that this together with the TAKE5 initiative would be fundamental in reducing the number of unwanted fire alarm signals in future.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

4 Consultation - Scottish Fire and Rescue Local Plan for Renfrewshire

There was submitted a report by the Director of Communities, Housing & Planning Services relative to the consultation on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Local Plan for Renfrewshire.

The report advised that Scottish Fire and Rescue Service had consulted on their Strategic Plan (2019 - 2022) during July 2019. Renfrewshire Council had responded to this consultation and the Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub-committee homologated that response at the meeting held on 20 August 2019. The final Strategic Plan was approved in October 2019.

The Area Commander and Local Fire Officer for Renfrewshire wrote to the Chief Executive on 26 January 2020 to advise that following the publication of the Strategic Plan, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was now consulting on a Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Renfrewshire and was looking for input to specific questions to allow the local plan to be drafted.

As part of the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership, Renfrewshire Council and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service had an excellent working relationship and aligned goals through strategic plans and Local Outcome Improvement Plans (LOIPs).

A copy of the proposed response prepared on behalf of the Council was attached as Appendix 1.

DECIDED:

(a) That the consultation on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Local Plan for Renfrewshire be noted; and

(b) That the Council's consultation response a copy of which was appended to the report, be approved.

5 Spotlight - I Am Me

The Project Manager, who was also the founder of the I Am Me project, made a presentation to members and highlighted many aspects of the project which had started in 2013 and was a community based charity which worked in partnership with Police Scotland to help raise awareness of Disability Hate Crime and identified various methods for reporting incidents and crimes. Disability Hate Crime was one of the most under reported crimes in the UK and Mencap estimated that around 97% of disability hate crimes went unreported.

The project aimed to encourage empathy and understanding of the range of disabilities and the difficulties that people could face on a day to day basis; enable children and young people to recognise what bullying and disability hate crime was and to understand how their own behaviour and attitude could affect an individual; empower children and young people to challenge prejudicial attitude and behaviours and to know how to report incidents safely; and inform children and young people about the Keep Safe Initiative to ensure that they could seek assistance if they were feeling lost, scared or vulnerable when out in the community. The group had worked closely with Police Scotland to develop a 'Keep Safe' initiative. Keep Safe worked with a network of local businesses to create safe places for elderly, disabled and vulnerable people when out in the community.

The project addressed children and young people from nursery age onwards and information was provided using a suite of training resources designed to raise awareness of the effects that harassment and abuse could have on individuals and wider communities. Resources were available free from www.iammescotland.co.uk.

DECIDED: That the presentation be noted.

6 Local Issues

The sub-committee was advised that youth disorder caused by groups of youths meeting in Paisley town centre had been targeted using a multi-agency approach which involved Police Scotland, Renfrewshire Youth Team, Social Work, Closed Circuit Television Operatives and Renfrewshire Council Wardens.

DECIDED: That the information provided be noted.