

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

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 27 October 2020	15:00	Microsoft Teams Meeting,

Present

Councillors B Brown, N Don, M McGurk, J McNaughtan and J Strang.

Chair

Councillor McGurk, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

M Crearie, Director of Communities, Housing & Planning Services; and O Reid, Head of Communities & Public Protection (both Communities, Housing and Planning Services); G Dickie, Partnership & Commissioning Manger; D Pole, End User Technician; A McNaughton, Senior Committee Services Officer and K O'Neill, Assistant Democratic Services Officer (all Finance & Resources).

Also in Attendance

A Murray, Chief Superintendent and R Fraser, Chief Inspector (both 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.

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 for the period 1 April – 31 July 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 advised that there had been an overall downward trend in both serious and minor violence crimes with a significant decrease of 26% in Group 1 crimes which equated to between 30 and 35 victims. A significant decrease in acquisitive crime was also reported, with shoplifting crimes reduced by 52%, while a decrease by 6% in Domestic Abuse crimes had also been reported compared to the same period during 2019 and which went against the national trend.

Although two bogus crimes had been reported during this period, it was intimated that this figure may be higher as victims did not always report these crimes. Cyber-crimes had increased with significant amounts of money being involved. 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 advised the sub-committee that arrangements were being made to merge three territorial command areas to two to better align with local authority boundaries to facilitate better partnership working.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

2 Spotlight - Police Scotland Covid-19 Operational Update

A Murray (Police Scotland) provided information relative to the ongoing operational response of Police Scotland to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The sub-committee was advised that the conduct of the vast majority of licensed premises had been to a high standard and that they were very co-operative with Police Scotland in adhering to the restrictions. The sub-committee was also advised that there had been a slight decrease in compliance with the restrictions, mainly in non-wearing of face coverings and house parties.

He also advised that Police Scotland was clear on its role and had measures in place to deal with matters going forward and that Community Partners and Elected Members had also provided a high level of support.

DECIDED: That the information provided be noted.

3 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 July – 30 September 2020.

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

A high level of proactive work had previously been undertaken by Scottish Fire & Rescue Service which included home fire safety visits and literature being issued which had contributed to the reduction in figures during the reporting period. Although

deliberate fire setting had reduced by 22% refuse fires remain an issue.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

4 Spotlight Scottish Fire & Rescue Service - Covid-19 Operational Update

M Hill (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service) advised that SFRS as an organisation remained prepared and ready to provide support where required.

Although staffing levels had been impacted by the pandemic with a number of cases of self isolation and adjustments to staffing levels to meet government guidelines, a high level of service had been maintained.

He also advised that changes in legislation had a positive impact on the sales of fireworks with only 20 premises in Renfrewshire having the required licence to sell these. There would be no organised fireworks event in 2020 in Renfrewshire and SFRS had worked for a period of time in partnership with Police Scotland, CCTV, Renfrewshire Council's Trading Standards and Warden Service to create an Action Plan in readiness for situations should they develop.

DECIDED: That the information provided be noted.