

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

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 26 October 2021	15:00	Council Chambers (Renfrewshire), Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

PRESENT

Councillors E Devine, M McGurk, J MacLaren, M MacLaren and J McNaughtan.

CHAIR

Councillor McGurk, Convener, presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

O Reid, Head of Communities & Public Protection and C Dalrymple, Communities & Regulatory Manager (both Communities & Housing Services); R Devine, Senior Committee Services Officer, K O'Neill, Assistant Democratic Services Officer and D Pole, End User Technician (all Finance & Resources).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Inspector J Kyle and Superintendent D Pettigrew (both Police Scotland); and D McCarrey, Area Commander and M Hill, Group Manager (both 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 webcast via the Council's website.

Thereafter the Clerk undertook a roll call of members in attendance at the meeting, indicating those in the Council Chamber and those participating remotely.

1 **POLICE SCOTLAND PERFORMANCE 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 30 August 2021.

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. Comparisons were made against the previous five-year average. The volume of recorded crime and offences had fallen by 12.2% on the five-year average and by 5.8% on the same period in 2020.

The report provided, in an infographics format, local updates in relation to Renfrewshire Policing Priorities 2018-22 of drug supply and misuse; violence & anti social behaviour; dishonesty and road safety. Continued focus and proactivity on drug supply and misuse had contributed to increased detections for drug supply by over 8% on the previous five-year average. Overall violent crime had fallen by 3.8% on the previous year, and by 9.9% against the previous five year average, which equated to 84 fewer victims of violence in Renfrewshire. Violence against emergency workers had fallen from a five-year average of 113.8% to 102% (a decrease of 10.4%). Two fewer serious road injuries than the previous year had been recorded year-to-date. There were no road fatalities in Renfrewshire in the reporting period. Reported sexual crimes increased by 10.4% from a five-year average to 179 crimes. The detection rate for sexual crime was 62.6%. Of all reported sexual crimes in the current year, 35% were non-recent in nature, compared to 33% in the previous year. At least 28% of recorded sexual crimes in the reporting period were cyber-enabled.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

2 **SPOTLIGHT BY POLICE SCOTLAND ON CONFERENCE OF PARTIES 26 (COP26)**

The Superintendent, Police Scotland advised the Sub-committee that preparations for supporting COP26 had been ongoing for some time with a number of officers seconded to the event. He reassured members that there would be no impact on the needs of communities in Renfrewshire in terms of local policing.

He also advised that any restrictions imposed around Glasgow Airport would be communicated at the earliest opportunity.

The Sub-committee were also advised, that if needed, additional resources could be made available from neighbouring Police Divisions.

DECIDED: That the information provided by noted.

2(a) **COP26 POLICING THE PROTESTS**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Communities, Housing and Planning Services relative to consideration of policing of protests connected with COP26 in Glasgow. The Scottish Police Authority (SPA) and Police Scotland had convened a roundtable discussion to bring together key partners and academics to consider Police Scotland's commitment to protecting people's right to protest or counter-protest, balanced against the rights of the wider community and highlighted practical ways in

which Police Scotland would protect those rights while ensuring individual and community safety and wellbeing.

The three main discussion sessions were:- Crowd psychology, collective protest and crowd/police interactions – led by the Professor of Psychology at the University of St. Andrews, with response from Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS); Human Rights and the sound of democracy - led by JS, Queen's Counsel, with responses from the Children and Young People's Commissioner and Policing Glasgow for all citizens over COP26 – led by Police Scotland's COP26 Gold Commander, with response from the planning team from Glasgow City Council for COP26.

DECIDED: That the contents of the report be noted.

3 **SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE PERFORMANCE REPORT**

There was submitted a report, by the Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) relative to SFRS performance and local fire and rescue service plan priorities in the Renfrewshire area during period 1 April to 30 September 2021.

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

Non-fire casualties had shown a decrease of 41% (9 incidents) when compared to the same quarter last year, however the three-year average trend continued to decline. The report identified an increase of 19% (7 incidents) in Accidental Dwelling Fires and detailed factors which contributed to these. An increase in deliberate fire setting of 26% (31) incidents was reported compared to Q2 last year.

The report provided information on Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) which had shown an increase of 12% (26 incidents) year on year, a breakdown of the number of incidents and where these occurred was also provided. The Sub-committee was advised that a SFRS consultation which sought the views from the people of Scotland on the Service's response to automatic fire alarms had received around 600 responses. The service would analyse responses received and consider options for reducing these and a future report on the findings would be provided.

DECIDED: That the contents of the report be noted.

4 **SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE SPOTLIGHT ON BONFIRE NIGHT**

The Group Manager, SFRS advised members that arrangements were in place with partners of Renfrewshire Council and Police Scotland to address any issues which may arise in relation to any bonfires throughout Renfrewshire which may need to be attended to.

The Sub-committee was also advised that Police Scotland had a Mobilisation Plan in place to support SFRS, if required, in relation to bonfire night.

DECIDED: That the information provided be noted.

5 **LOCAL ISSUES**

Councillor James MacLaren sought clarification about the speed limits in Dargavel Village, Bishopton adjacent to the primary school where an area of the carriageway was set at 20mph and some at 30mph. Police Scotland advised that they were aware of this and that further information would be sought and that they would provide further information on this to a future meeting.

DECIDED: That the information provided be noted.

6 **VALEDICTORY**

On behalf of the Sub-Committee, Councillor McGurk extended thanks to D Pettigrew, Superintendent for the contributions he had made and for the advice and assistance he had provided and wished him well for the future. These sentiments were echoed by all members present.