

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

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 23 March 2021	10:00	Remotely using Teams.,

Meeting

This is the re-convened meeting from 16 March 2021 which was unable to proceed.

Present

Councillors B Binks, B Brown, M McGurk, 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 (all Communities & Housing Services); D Pole, End User Technician; K O'Neill, Assistant Democratic Services Officer and R Devine, Senior Committee Services Officer (all Finance & Resources).

Also in Attendance

J Kyle, Chief Inspector (Police Scotland); J McNeill, 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 recorded and that the recording would be available to view on the Council's website.

Order of Business

In terms of Standing Order 16, the Convener intimated that she proposed to alter the order of business to facilitate the conduct of the meeting by considering item 1 of the agenda after items 2, 3 and 4 of the agenda.

1 **Scottish Fire & Rescue Service - Renfrewshire Performance Report/Scorecard**

There was submitted a report, in an infographics format, by the Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) relative to SFRS performance in the Renfrewshire area during the three month reporting period to end of January 2021.

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

There was a reduction in deliberate fires (32 fewer), refuse fires (15 fewer) and non-refuse fires (3 fewer) against the three month average.

The Group Manager advised that this information was provided to all Scottish Fire & Rescue Service personnel on an ongoing basis and was presented to the sub-committee for information as the timing of the scrutiny report normally provided did not coincide with the date of this meeting. The Scrutiny Report in its normal format which included more details and breakdown of figures for ward areas would be presented to the next scheduled meeting of this sub-committee.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted; and
- (b) That the Scrutiny report in the normal format, with more detailed information, be presented to the next scheduled meeting of this sub-committee.

2 **Spotlight on Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)/TAKE-5**

The Local Senior Officer advised that arrangements regarding implementation of the TAKE5 (Testing, Aerosols, Knowledge, Equipment and 5 (seconds or minutes)) initiative within the Renfrewshire area were progressing. Information was provided on the number of unwanted fire alarm signals together with details on how TAKE5 was an initiative used to significantly reduce these numbers and associated costs. The reduction, by educating, of unwanted fire alarm signals would enable more meaningful work and other community engagement, reduce impact on businesses and reduce the costs associated with unwanted fire alarm signals.

DECIDED: That information on progress and impact of TAKE5 implementation be presented to a future meeting of the sub-committee.

3 **Spotlight on Spring Season Thematic Action Plan**

The Group Manager advised that a Spring Season Thematic Action Plan had been developed to address the changes in risk profiles and would be advertised on television and local media. A revised wild fire strategy had also been developed to address the potential increase in these type of fires.

The Sub-committee was advised that the combination of Covid-19 restrictions being lifted and the improvement in weather would lead to a rise in outdoor activities, the potential increase in deliberate fires, wild fires and open water activities and the Spring Season Thematic Plan had been developed to address these changes.

DECIDED: That the information provided by noted.

4 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 during the period 1 April to 31 December 2020.

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, together with comparative data. The report 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 and terrorism and road safety and road crime.

The report was highlighted that there had been an overall downward trend in both serious and minor violence crimes with a decrease of 11.2% in Group 1 crimes which equated to 26 fewer victims, 180 fewer common assaults and 28 fewer serious assaults recorded than in the same period last year. A decrease of 13.4% in the previous in acquisitive crime was also reported, mainly driven by the fall in reported common theft and theft by shoplifting. There had been 204 assaults on emergency workers, which was an increase on 5 on previous year, and Your Safety Matters Campaign was being implemented to support those affected.

A decrease by 9.9% in domestic abuse crimes was reported compared to the same period during 2019 with increased detection rate for domestic crimes and offences from 63.6% in the previous year, to 69.7% in the current period.

The Covid-19 pandemic had provided additional opportunities for cybercriminals to target victims and it was noted that cyber-crimes had increased with significant amounts of money involved. It was emphasised that although 15 bogus crimes had been reported during this period, five more than the previous year, this figure was likely to be higher as victims did not always report this type of crime.

The Chief Inspector advised the sub-committee of the Police Scotland Take 5 to Stop Fraud initiative which could be used to help individuals and businesses stay safe from fraud and provided information on how to stop, challenge and protect from fraud. Leaflets on this initiative had been distributed throughout Renfrewshire.

An update was provided on Police Scotland activity in relation to the on-going Covid-19 restrictions which advised there had been an increase in all categories of breaches since the last reporting period.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

5 Local Issues

Councillor McNaughtan advised the sub-committee that he was aware of significant increase on graffiti activity in Renfrewshire. The Communities & Regulatory Manager advised that the Street Scene, Warden and Team up to Clean up teams were actively working to address this.

Councillor M MacLaren advised of concerns about a recent case where a councillor's house had been attacked and asked whether there were procedures which may be in place to protect councillors or their premises from attack. The Convener advised the sub-committee that she would pursue this situation with the Chief Executive. The Head of Communities & Public Protection advised that there were procedures in place to address this and would liaise with the Head of Corporate Governance to provide further details to all councillors on these protocols.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the information provided by the Communities & Regulatory Manager in relation to graffiti be noted;
- (b) That the Convener advise the Chief Executive of concerns raised; and
- (c) That further information and guidance would be provided to all councillors in relation to threats/attacks to councillors.