

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

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 21 May 2019	15:00	Corporate Meeting Room 1, Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

Present

Councillors Binks, Don, M MacLaren and McNaughtan.

Chair

Councillor McNaughtan, Vice 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); and K O'Neill, Assistant Democratic Services Officer (Finance & Resources).

Also in Attendance

S Wright, Chief Inspector (Police Scotland); and G Binning, Local Senior Officer and S Murdoch, Station Manager (both Scottish Fire & Rescue Service).

Apology

Councillor Hood.

Declarations of Interest

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

1 Police Scotland Scrutiny Report

The report summarised the key performance indicators and provided statistics for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, 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.

DECIDED: That the information be noted.

2 Police Scotland - Presentation on Group 1 Crime 2018-2019 update

There was submitted a report by Police Scotland, relative to statistical data for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 concerning robberies (theft accompanied by violence, threatened or actual) in Renfrewshire.

The report indicated that in 2018/19, 92 robberies were recorded in Renfrewshire - an increase of 35.3% on the previous year, which equated to an additional 24 victims of this type of crime. The detection rate for robberies within this period was 73.9%, an increase on the previous year's rate of 60.3%.

While robberies occurring in public spaces increased by approximately 10% on the preceding five year average, the primary issue underlying the 35.3% increase in robberies was determined to relate to private space robberies. Private space robberies increased by more than 60% against the preceding five year average volume, and nearly 55% compared to the previous year. Over 40% occurred in private spaces such as dwelling houses in the 2018/19 period and this was representative of the general 'shift' from public space violence towards violence occurring within private settings. Several factors were assessed to underlie this shift, including the cultural shift towards alcohol consumption within the home setting in recent years - driven by the rising cost of alcohol and ever increasing, technology driven home entertainment options. Private space violence (including robbery and assault with intent to rob) presented additional challenges to traditional preventative policing approaches, due to its 'hidden' nature, and lack of detection opportunities which were more often present in public spaces.

While robberies targeting commercial premises continued to comprise only a small proportion of robberies overall, crimes of this type reached the highest volume recorded since 2013/14 in Renfrewshire in the most recent year.

DECIDED: That the information provided be noted.

3 Police Scotland - Annual Police Plan 2019-2020

There was submitted a report by the Director of Communities, Housing and Planning Services relative to the development of Police Scotland's Annual Police Plan 2019/20.

The plan detailed the Policing priorities for 2019/20 policing which were:- protecting vulnerable people; tracking cyber-related harm; working with communities and

support for operational policing.

The plan also summarised the planned activities which would address these priorities and included:- supporting people considered vulnerable and working with partners to reduce harm; building capability to address the threat from cyber related crime; public and communities engagement to build resilience and prevent crime and deliver change that enabled Police Scotland to deliver an effective and sustainable service.

DECIDED: That the publication of the Police Scotland Annual Police Plan 2019/20 be noted.

4 HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) Scrutiny Plan 2019-2020

There was submitted a report by the Director of Communities, Housing & Planning Services relative to consultation on HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland's (HMICS) Scrutiny Plan 2019/20.

The report advised that HMICS had undertaken strategic engagement with Police Scotland, Force Executive and Divisional Commanders between November 2018 and January 2019 which allowed them to maintain a good understanding of current issues which affected policing and to ensure that their future scrutiny activity focused on the right issues in the right areas.

To support the process, HMICS had sought the views of key stakeholders, including local councils, to ascertain whether there were any topical, high-risk or emerging areas in policing that should be included within the 2019/20 Scrutiny Plan.

At K Division level, Police Scotland had worked closely with the Council and with the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service to develop an innovative collaborative learning approach shared across key agencies and which sought to integrate local actions and priorities into the Local Outcome Improvement Plan to develop shared accountability across strategic objectives for the benefit of communities across Renfrewshire.

It was highlighted that local relationships with Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority were excellent and the response highlighted the strength of the relationship.

DECIDED: That the HMICS Annual Scrutiny Plan 2019/20 be noted.

5 Scottish Fire and 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 Quarter 4 - 1 January - 31 March 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 Accidental Dwelling Fires and Casualties, Unintentional Injury and Harm, Deliberate Fire Setting, Non-Domestic Fire Safety and Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

6 Local Issues

Chief Inspector Wright advised that staff resources identified to cover any Brexit issues had reverted to previous roles and that further information on the potential impact of Brexit on services, if any, would be provided when available.

He also advised that youth issues involving anti-social behaviour continued to be ongoing across Renfrewshire and that multi-agency partnerships were working together to create preventative measures to address this quickly.

The Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire & Rescue advised that arrangements were in place to commemorate James Mair, a firefighter who had lost his life while attending a fire at Ferguslie Fireclay Works, Paisley in 1899. The commemorative service would be held at 111 Ferguslie and thereafter within Tweedie Halls, Linwood on Saturday 29 June 2019. A stone memorial plinth would be put in place as near as possible to where the firefighter had fallen. The Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service thanked partners for their support in the organisation of this memorial service event.

He advised that the Collaborative Leader Programme which involved 17 officers from different organisations was now winding down and that a Thematic Action Plan would be presented to the Community Protection Chief Officers Group thereafter.

The Local Senior Officer advised the Sub-committee of the requirement for Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to have a new 3-year Strategic Plan in place by October 2019 and extended an invitation to members to review the draft Strategic Plan and provide views on its content.

DECIDED: That the information provided be noted.

7 Valedictory

On behalf of the Sub-Committee, C Dalrymple extended thanks to S Wright, Chief Inspector for the significant contribution 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.