

Police and Fire and Rescue Committee
8 February 2016

IRVINE, 8 February 2016 - At a Meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Marie Burns, Catherine McMillan, John Bell, Ruth Maguire, Grace McLean, Peter McNamara

In Attendance

C. Andrew, Senior Manager (Legal Services) and M. Anderson, Committee Services Team Leader (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

Superintendent L. Jones, Chief Inspector T. Ross and Chief Inspector B. Shaw (Police Scotland); Group Manager A. Stewart and Area Manager J. Scott (Scottish Fire and Rescue Services); D. Armstrong and G. Paterson, (Scottish Government); L. Tennant (Scottish Police Authority); and I Wilkie, Media Officer (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

Chair

Councillor Burns in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Irene Oldfather

1. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed representatives of the Scottish Government, the Scottish Police Authority and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 10 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

3. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 23 November 2015 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

4. Consultation Responses

4.1 Consultation of Strategic Police Priorities

The Chair invited the Depute Head of Strategy (Police Division) (Scotland Government) to give short introductory presentation on the review of Scottish Strategic Police Priorities, current priorities, pre-consultation engagement and the formal consultation process. A copy of the presentation slides and a summary document on the consultation were circulated at the meeting.

Thereafter, submitted report by the Chief Executive on the consultation document "What are your Priorities for your Police Services? A review of our Scottish Strategic Police Priorities". A copy of the consultation document and a proposed consultation response were set out at Appendices 1 and 2, respectively, to the report.

Members asked discussed the draft response and the extent to which it captured the priorities issues identified by Members.

The Committee agreed (a) not to submit the draft response set out at Appendix 2 as its consultation response; and (b) to respond to the consultation by requesting that consideration be given to reflecting in future Strategic Police Priorities the importance of improved accountability, better communication, and a greater focus on safety in the community.

Councillor McNamara left the meeting at this point.

4.2 HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland - Consultation on Annual Scrutiny Plan 2016/17

Submitted report by the Chief Executive which sought views on any further areas of scrutiny which should be undertaken by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) during 2016/17. A copy of the "Corporate Strategy 2014/17: Improving Policing across Scotland" document was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The report did not identify any obvious gaps in the scrutiny undertaken by HMICS, but did draw Members' attention to two developing areas which might benefit from scrutiny in the longer terms, namely preventative policing and joint working between the Police and Community Planning Partners.

The Committee agreed to respond to the consultation exercise by expressing support for the current HMICS Scrutiny Plan 2016/17.

4.3 Consultation of Police Scotland Annual Police Plan 2016/17

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Annual Police Plan 2016/17 consultation. The draft plan was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Section 3 of the report invited Members to consider the draft Annual Police Plan 2016/17 and identified a number of potential issues for consideration.

Members asked questions, and received further information, on the following:-

- the importance of highlighting the innovative MADART approach;
- the role of the Licensing Board with regard to off sales and managing over provision;
- whether Police logs record incidents where alcohol has been a factor in crimes;
- the extent to which a link has been established between crime and the purchase of alcohol from supermarkets; and
- the issue of 'reportable road accidents' and its effect of the number of road traffic accidents recorded.

The Committee agreed to submit as its consultation response the issues identified at Section 3.1 of the report, in terms of the Violence, Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour Priority, the Road Safety and Road Crime Priority, and the potential value of social media to support local policing and increase community resilience.

Councillor McNamara rejoined the meeting at this point.

5. Performance Reports

5.1 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Submitted report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services on progress against North Ayrshire's Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014/17 and which provided other key Fire and Rescue updates. A copy of the North Ayrshire Performance Report from 1 April to 31 December 2015 was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Section 3.1 of the report provided an analysis of operational activity for the period 1 April - 31 December 2015 compared with the previous year and reviewed activity over the preceding three years. Performance during the 9-month review period was measured across six indicators, with one indicator currently achieving its reduction target, four adrift of their 3-year average target as a result of increased activity, and one showing a reduction which has not achieved the target set. New targets have been developed for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 to monitor the priorities within the local plan.

The report also gave an update on changes to the Strategic Leadership Team structure, as well as information on the transfer of national headquarters to Cambuslang. In addition, information was given about a report to the Scottish Government entitled "Managing Automatic Fire Signals".

Members asked questions, and received further information, on the following:-

- the proportional of false alarm calls in North Ayrshire compared with elsewhere in Scotland;
- measures to address unwanted fire alarm signals within schools; and
- cases where drugs and/or alcohol are involved attendances and the use made of data on this.

The Committee agreed (a) to receive a report at a future meeting on the "Managing Automatic Fire Signals" report and recommendations; and (b) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

5.2 Police Scotland

Submitted report by Police Scotland on performance in relation to the North Ayrshire Local Police Plan for the period 1 April to 31 December 2015. Appendix 1 to the report provided detailed information on performance against the Plan's priorities and associated objectives and gave information on complaints against the Police.

The report also provided information on the Festive Safety Campaign which ran for the four weeks from 4 December 2015 to 3 January 2016, and on plans for the preparation of Local Police Plans by Police Scotland.

Members asked questions, and received further information, on the consultation arrangements around the preparation of Local Police Plans.

The Committee agreed (a) that any comments Members may have on the Local Police Plan and the four policing priorities currently identified in the plan, should be submitted to the Head of Democratic Services in the first instance, for onward submission to Police Scotland; (b) to receive a report at the next meeting on the review of the Local Police Plan; and (c) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

Councillor McNamara left the meeting during consideration of this item.

6. Police Scotland Update on National/Local Policing Matters

Submitted report by Police Scotland on relevant local and national policing matters which fall outwith the local Policing Plan progress update.

The report provided information on the following:-

- Air Weapons Surrender Programme;
- Recorded Police Warning System;
- Stop and Search;
- Victim Care Card;
- Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill;
- I6; and
- Your View Counts - Revised Public Consultation Process

Noted.

The Meeting ended at 3.25 p.m.