

Shadow Police and Fire Committee
21 June 2012

IRVINE, 21 June 2012 - At a Meeting of the Shadow Police and Fire Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Marie Burns, Ruth Maguire, Catherine McMillan, Ronnie McNicol, and Irene Oldfather.

In Attendance

I. Mackay, Solicitor to the Council (Corporate Services); J. Montgomery, General Manager (Policy and Service Reform), and M. McKeown, Committee Services Manager (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

Chief Inspector R. Newbigging (Strathclyde Police); Area Commander H. Kerr (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue).

Chair

Councillor Burns in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Anthea Dickson, John Bell, and Jean Highgate; E. Murray, Chief Executive (North Ayrshire Council); and Chief Superintendent Thomson (Strathclyde Police).

1. Declarations of Interest

1.1 Advice to Elected Members

Submitted report by the Chief Executive highlighting the requirements of Standing Orders and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors in relation to declarations of interest.

Standing Order 16 provides that if any Member of the Council has a financial or non-financial interest in any contract or any other matter as defined by Section 5 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, and is present at any meeting at which that matter is to be considered, he/she must, as soon as practicable after the meeting starts, disclose that he/she has an interest and importantly, state the nature of this interest. Section 5 of the Code, which was appended to the report, sets out the rules in relation to declarations of interests.

To facilitate such declarations, a heading "Declarations of Interest", routinely appears as the first item on agendas for all meetings of the Council and its Committees. Any Member making a declaration is expected to make a statement which is sufficiently informative as to enable those at the meeting, or anyone reading the Minute, to understand the nature of the interest.

The Committee agreed (a) to note the report; and (b) that Members ensure (i) they are familiar with the requirements of Standing Orders and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors in relation to declaring interests and (ii) they consider the need to declare financial or non-financial interests in any contract or any other matter as defined by Section 5 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct when attending meetings of the Council and its committees.

Noted.

1.2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 16.

2. Remit of Shadow Police and Fire Committee

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the remit of the Committee as agreed by Council at its Statutory Meeting held on 16 May 2012.

The Solicitor to the Council briefed the Committee on its remit, a copy of which was appended to the report.

Arising from discussion, it was noted that the Council currently appoints Elected Members to Strathclyde Police Authority and to Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Board. This provides an opportunity for the Committee to receive feedback from those bodies. Councillor McNicol, as one of the Council's appointees to the Police Authority, provided a brief update on discussions at the last meeting of the Authority.

Members sought clarification in relation to the timescales for the implementation of the Police & Fire (Scotland) Bill, and on the transitional arrangements. The Policy and Service Reform Manager agreed to prepare a timetable of events for the next meeting.

The Committee (a) noted the report; and (b) agreed to receive a report on a timetable of events at its next meeting.

3. Composition and Remit of Police and Fire Reform Steering Group

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the composition and remit of the Police and Fire Reform Steering Group which has been established to support the Committee in preparing for the implementation of the Police & Fire (Scotland) Bill and overseeing transitional arrangements.

The membership of the Steering Group, which was set out in the appendix to the report, comprises officers of the Council, Strathclyde Police and Strathclyde Fire & Rescue. The Chief Executive of North Ayrshire Council will chair meetings of the Steering Group, which will meet on a 6 weekly basis.

Noted.

4. Background to Police and Fire Reform

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the background to Police and Fire Reform in Scotland.

On 8 September 2011, the Scottish Government announced its intention to bring forward legislation to create a single Scottish Police Service and a single Scottish Fire & Rescue Service. Subsequently, a consultation paper entitled "Keeping Scotland Safe and Strong: A Consultation on Reforming Police and Fire & Rescue Services in Scotland" was launched setting out the Scottish Government's proposals for the new Services. The Council's former Executive approved a response to the consultation in November 2011.

The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Bill was formally introduced to the Scottish Parliament on 16 January 2012. The key provisions of the Bill were summarised in Appendix 1 to the report. The Bill includes a framework for the delivery of Police and Fire & Rescue Services that will protect and improve local arrangements and strengthen the connection between the Services and communities. This is based on three key elements:

- **the designation of a Local Commander (Police) and a Local Senior Officer (Fire & Rescue)**, with significant delegated authority and devolved resources for each local authority area;
- **the production of a Local Policing and a Local Fire & Rescue Plan for each local authority area**, prepared by the Local Commander and Local Senior Officer respectively, and agreed by the local authority;
- **the creation of a strong formal relationship between Councils and the Services**, for example, through local committees or other arrangements deemed appropriate locally, through which many more Elected Members would play a direct and formal role in shaping local priorities and scrutinising performance.

When the Bill becomes an Act, all local authorities, and the new Services, will need to ensure that they are in a position to put in place the new arrangements for local scrutiny and engagement from day 1. The new Police and Fire & Rescue Services are scheduled to become operational from April 2013. As a result, the Scottish Government indicated that it would facilitate a Local Scrutiny and Engagement Network. The Network provides an opportunity to plan, trial, evaluate, refine and share learning about the implementation of local arrangements before 'going live'.

The Network is overseen by a Project Board comprising of representatives from the Scottish Government, COSLA, SOLACE, ACPOS, CFOAS, the Police Authorities' Conveners Forum, the Scottish Fire Convener's Forum and the Improvement Service. In January 2012, expressions of interest were sought from local authorities and Police and Fire & Rescue Services to join the Network as either *Pathfinders* or *Networkers*. The Council's former Executive, at its meeting on 31 January 2012, agreed that the Council should act as a Pathfinder on the Network.

The first Local Scrutiny and Engagement Implementation Network Learning Event was held on 19 April 2012. However, due to the local government elections it was recognised that Elected Members were unlikely to attend. Therefore a decision was taken to hold a separate event for Elected Members in June 2012. All Members of the Shadow Police and Fire Committee have been forwarded details of the event which will be held at COSLA headquarters in Edinburgh on Monday 25 June 2012.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, in respect of

- the progress of the Bill through Parliament and the need for regular updates to Committee;
- the proposed composition of the national Boards for the new Police and Fire and Rescue Services;
- the timescales for appointing the Chief Officers of the new Police and Fire & Rescue Services;
- arrangements for identifying Local Commanders and Local Senior Officers and putting in place local delivery plans;
- the budget implications for local authorities arising from the transition to national Services; and
- the implications for future funding of CCTV from the Police Authority.

Noted.

5. Strathclyde Police: Sample Police Plan

Chief Inspector Newbigging updated the Committee on discussions within the Strathclyde Police Service on the development of a local authority based Police Plans.

Currently, Plans are prepared at Strathclyde, Divisional and Sub Divisional, and Ward levels. Strathclyde Police are now considering what a Local Authority level Police Plan may look like, taking account of national guidance, national and local Policing priorities, the Single Outcome Agreement, local initiatives etc. This will be brought before Committee in due course.

Members discussed the need for the Police Plan to be strategic in its approach and to include meaningful indicators.

The Committee agreed to receive a Police Plan at a future meeting.

6. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue: Example Fire and Rescue Plan

Submitted example Station Plan prepared by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue.

Area Commander Kerr presented a draft copy of the 1 year interim plan for Dreghorn Station, covering the period to 31 March 2013. Similar plans exist for the 4 main stations in North Ayrshire and retained stations. An Area Plan, covering North and South Ayrshire Council areas, also exists. All are available for download from the Strathclyde Fire and Rescue website.

Members discussed the approach to developing a North Ayrshire Plan. Area Commander Kerr agreed to consider what such a Plan might look like and report back to a future meeting of the Committee.

The Committee agreed to receive a Fire and Rescue Plan at a future meeting.

The meeting ended at 3.00 p.m.