

Police and Fire and Rescue Committee  
16 May 2016

**IRVINE, 16 May 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 and Irene Oldfather.

**In Attendance**

A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Services and M. Anderson, Committee Services Team Leader (Chief Executive's Service).

**Also In Attendance**

Chief Superintendent G. MacDonald, Chief Inspector T. Ross and Chief Inspector B. Shaw (Police Scotland); and J. Scott, Local Senior Officer and M. Meechen, Station Commander (Dreghorn) (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

**Chair**

Councillor Burns in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Ruth Maguire and Peter McNamara.

**1. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair, in terms of Standing Order 9.3, agreed to vary the order of business to allow consideration the Managing Automatic Fire Signals presentation (Agenda Item 3.1) as part of Agenda Item 4.1 (Performance Report: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

**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 8 February 2016 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

**4. Matter Arising**

**4.1 Review of Local Police Plan**

Submitted report by Police Scotland on the review of the Local Police Plan on the outcome of the annual review of the Local Police Plan.

The review identified that, whilst some administrative amendments would be required to reflect the adoption of the Locality approach in North Ayrshire and some changes in personnel, the priorities within the current plan do not require to be changed at present.

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

- the appropriateness of the category 'youths causing annoyance' and the scope for using alternative language in respect of this data; and
- the reporting of wildlife crimes.

The Committee agreed to note (i) the content of the report and (ii) that the Chief Superintendent would seek to establish whether an alternative descriptor might be applied to the category 'youths causing annoyance'.

## **5. Performance Reports**

### **5.1 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

Submitted report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service 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 2015 to 31 March 2016 was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Section 2.1 of the report provided an analysis of operational activity for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, which identified a 10% increase in activity levels across the local authority area compared with the same period last year. Performance during year showed that one indicator achieved its reduction target, four did not achieve their respective targets as a result of increased activity, and one did see a reduction in activity but did not achieve the target set.

The report also provided updates in respect of an audit report in May 2015, the Fire and Rescue Service Resource Budget for 2016/17 (set at £259.221m), the Capital Departmental Expenditure Limited (DEL) funding of £10.800m for 2016/17, and anticipated capital received from the sale of surplus property.

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

- the circumstances surrounding the Fire and Rescue Service assisting other emergency services with gaining entry to properties; and
- whether Fire and Rescue Service officers might be required to provide first aid in instances where they are first to arrive on the scene;

The Committee agreed (a) to note the content of the report; and (b) that a report on progress in terms of implementation of the 'Positive Steps' initiative be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

## **5.2 Managing Automatic Fire Signals**

The Committee received a presentation by the Local Senior Officer (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service) on Managing Automatic Fire Signals. This matter arose from the Committee's consideration of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Performance Report on 8 February 2016.

The presentation highlighting the following:-

- the definition of unwanted fire alarm signals (UFAS) and their frequency;
- the impact of UFAS on the Fire and Rescue Service, local businesses and the community; and
- the Action Plan for addressing UFAS.

Members asked questions, and received further information, on the circumstances surrounding UFAS in schools and measures to address this issue.

Noted.

## **5.3 Police Scotland**

Submitted report by Police Scotland on performance in relation to the North Ayrshire Local Police Plan for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. 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. Section 3 of the report provided confirmation that Police Scotland has introduced, on a six-month pilot basis, a revised Community Policing model in North Ayrshire, to complement and support the adoption of a Locality approach.

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

- the figures relating to the number of persons seriously injured on our roads, which had been transposed in error within the report;
- the categorisation of complaints against the Police and the level of detail provided in terms of the circumstances surrounding such complaints;
- whether the figures associated within complaints against Police were higher in Ayrshire than elsewhere;
- the availability of further information on the timescales for handling complaints against the Police.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Chief Superintendent (i) liaise with Police Scotland's Head of Professional Standards to establish whether further detail might be provided on the Ayrshire figures for complaints against the Police, to allow the Committee to scrutinise this area more thoroughly and (ii) include in future performance reports on complaints more narrative to accompany the figures provided; (b) that the Head of Democratic Services include within his response to the Scottish Police Authority's letter on the annual report of policing, reference to the need for sufficient detailed information on complaints to allow the Committee to fulfil its scrutiny role; and (c) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

## **6. Policing Issues Update**

Submitted report by Police Scotland on local and national policing matters outwith the Local Policing Plan progress update, namely the Innkeeper National Licensing System, planning for the Open Golf, a revised process for Death Investigations, Governance in Policing, the Annual Review of Policing, Stop/Search Public Consultation, the National Speeding campaign, the National Doorstep Crime campaign (Operation Monarda) and the HOPE Project.

A copy of a letter dated 14 April 2016 from the Scottish Police Authority on the annual review of policing, was also circulated at the meeting. The Head of Democratic Services summarised some of the matters which might be included within the Committee's response.

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

- the suggested inclusion within the response to the Scottish Policy Authority's annual review of policing, of a comment about the need for an alternative descriptor for 'youths causing annoyance'; and
- stop and search practice in relation to children and young people and alcohol (referred to at Section 7.1 of the report).

The Committee agreed (a) that it be remitted to the Head of Democratic Services to respond on behalf of the Committee to the Scottish Police Authority's invitation to contribute to the annual review of policing; and (b) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

Councillor Bell left the meeting during consideration of this item.

## **7. Consultation Papers**

### **7.1 Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2016**

Submitted consultation document in respect of the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2016, responses in respect of which are due on 16 June 2016.

The Committee agreed, given its support for the strategic priorities identified at Annex A of the consultation document and the opportunity for consultation on other key strategic documents, not to submit a consultation response on this occasion.

## **8. Discussion Items**

The Committee was invited to consider the undernoted discussion items, suggested by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

### **8.1 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Plan 2016-19**

The Local Senior Officer (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service) advised of the consultation arrangements associated with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Plan 2016-19.

The Committee agreed that it be remitted to the Head of Democratic Services, in consultation with Members of the Committee, to respond on behalf of the Committee when the consultation on the Strategic Plan opened.

### **8.2 North Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan Development**

The Committee agreed to continue consideration of the North Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan Development to its next meeting.

The Meeting ended at 3.40 p.m.