

Police and Fire and Rescue Committee
21 November 2017

IRVINE, 21 November 2017 - At a Meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Donald L. Reid, John Glover, Todd Ferguson, Ellen McMaster, Davina McTiernan and Angela Stephen.

In Attendance

A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Services; M. Inglis, Senior Manager (Intervention Services) and V. Fitzpatrick, Team Manager (Health and Social Care Partnership); and M. Anderson, Committee Services Team Leader (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

Chief Superintendent P. Main, Chief Inspector B. Shaw, Inspector B. Skimming and Police Constable A. Fletcher (Police Scotland); and Area Manager J. Scott (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

Chair

Councillor Donald L. Reid in the Chair.

1. 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 Council.

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 5 September 2017 was confirmed and signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair invited Chief Superintendent Main to make presentations to two Police Scotland Officers, Inspector Brian Skimming and Constable Andrea Fletcher, who, having joined the Force in December 1987 and served predominantly in Ayrshire over the course of their careers, would shortly be retiring from Police Scotland.

The Chair took the opportunity, on behalf of the committee as a whole, to add his own thanks to the officers for their service, wishing them both a long and fulfilled retirement.

Thereafter, the Chair provided a brief verbal report on the following matters arising from his attendance at the COSLA Police Conveners meeting on 10 November and from other meetings attended recently:-

- issues relating to Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders and the formation of a working group on this matter;
- liaison with Scottish Police Authority members and the Chair's recent meeting with the SPA Chair;
- the Police Scotland three-year plan, which should be available for circulation by April 2018;
- the localism agenda in Policing and measures to update channels of communication with the public;
- the impending integration of British Transport Police into Police Scotland;
- the role of Police Scotland Youth Volunteers and Special Constables, and that of Young Fire Fighters;
- the recent visit by Committee Members and officers to the Govan Contact, Command and Control Centre;
- public space CCTV and the potential for a Police/COSLA working group on the subject; and
- the importance of benchmarking in helping to ensuring the Committee is fulfilling its scrutiny function.

Noted.

Councillor Glover joined the meeting during consideration of this item.

4. Presentations

4.1 "MADART/MAASH"

The Team Manager (Health and Social Care Partnership), accompanied by the Senior Manager (Intervention Services), provided a presentation on the work of the Multi Agency Domestic Abuse Response Team (MADART) and the Multi Agency Assessment and Screening Hub (MAASH), including:-

- the background to the formation of the MADART joint working arrangements, which became fully operational in 2012;
- the composition of the team, which is based in Kilmarnock Police Station;
- the 2016/17 outcomes, which illustrate the important role played by the team;
- the pattern of domestic abuse incidents in the period between 2003 and 2017;
- a case study showing the positive impact of the team on the circumstances of a service user; and
- the development of the service to incorporate the Multi Agency Assessment and Screening Hub.

Members asked questions, and received further information, in respect of the following:-

- liaison between the team and the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration in cases where referrals are made directly to the Reporter;
- any impact on the workload of the wider Social Services team following the introduction of the team; and
- whether the MADART/MAASH structure had been implemented on a permanent basis and the extent to which the approach had been mirrored elsewhere.

Noted.

4.2 "Doing More for Scotland: Transforming for the Future"

The Area Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, provided a presentation on the Service's transformation journey, which included:-

- contextual information setting out the changing nature of risk faced by the Service;
- the need to re-examine the service delivery model in light of factors such as new technology;
- the financial imperative for transformation of the Service;
- the transformation strategy, which sets out the values and vision of the Service, what it intends to achieve and the planned outcomes;
- the expanding role and duties of firefighters, including work in relation to safety in the home and responding to acts of terrorism;
- a proposed new recognition package for firefighters; and
- plans for wider public consultation on the transformation proposals.

Members discussed the Chair's attendance at meetings of the Scottish Police Authority and the value of seeking to arrange similar attendance, by the Vice Chair, at meetings of the Scottish Fire Service Board.

The Committee agreed (a) to write to the new Chair of the Scottish Fire Service Board with regard to the Vice Chair's proposed attendance at meetings of the Board; and (b) that the Vice Chair provide a short update to the Committee on the outcome of such meetings in due course.

5. Performance Reports

5.1 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Submitted report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service which provided an update on progress against the North Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17 and gave other key Fire and Rescue updates. A copy of the North Ayrshire Performance report from 1 April 2017 to 30 September 2017 was set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

The report identified a 3% increase in activity levels across North Ayrshire compared with the corresponding period in 2016, and an 8% increase in terms of the preceding three years average. False alarms accounted for 51% of all activity within North Ayrshire, with fire related activity and special service activity accounting for 39% and 10% respectively. Review of performance against the six agreed performance indicators noted that four indicators were above the three year average due to a rise in activity, two had seen a reduction in their respective three year averages and one indicator was trending with a reduction of more than 5%. Section 3 of the report also provided a number of Service updates and provided links to key reports.

The Chair made reference to the excellent presentation provided by representatives of the Kilmarnock Fire Safety Community Action team at a recent Age Concern Scotland conference.

Members asked questions, and received information, on the various methods used by the Service to recruit retained and whole time firefighters.

Noted.

5.2 Police Scotland

Submitted report by Police Scotland on performance in relation to the North Ayrshire Local Police Plan for the period from 1 April 2017 to 5 November 2017.

Chief Superintendent Main reported that North Ayrshire continued to perform well in terms of sustained reductions in crime levels. He provided further contextual information in respect of robberies, housebreaking and road safety and, for the purposes of comparison, contrasted current statistics in these areas with the number of incidents reported historically. Among the other elements of the report which were highlighted, was Exercise Border Reiver (which took place in October 2017 and was based on a Marauding Terrorist Firearms Attack), Ayrshire Police Mental Health Triage (a pilot to improve responses to people with mental health problems who present Police or emergency departments), the work of the Ayrshire College Campus Liaison Officer, and the recent Ayrshire Division Recognising Excellence Awards.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- local concern regarding road safety in the light of a number of recent incidents;
- a proposed initiative which, subject to approval of the project, might allow community groups to become involved in Community Speed Watch activity;
- the mechanisms in place for considering and introducing traffic calming measures and the circumstances in which a detailed engineering response might be considered;
- whether there were any housebreaking trends apparent in terms of the time of date incidents took place or the method of entry used; and
- the anticipated impact of the introduction of minimum pricing of alcohol.

The Committee agreed to note that (i) a briefing would be provided at a future meeting of the Committee on the subject of serious and organised crime and (ii) a report providing more detailed information on complaints would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee; and (b) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

6. North Ayrshire Local Policing Plan 2017-2020

Submitted Police Scotland's Local Police Plan for North Ayrshire for 2017 to 2020, which outlined how Policing services would be delivered over the next three years in pursuit of locally identified policing priorities and how Police Scotland would work closely with partner agencies through the Community Planning process to improve safety and security in North Ayrshire. The Plan also described how Police Scotland would contribute to the Community Planning Partnership's 'Fair For All' strategy and help to seek to reduce inequalities in North Ayrshire.

The Committee agreed to endorse the North Ayrshire Local Policing Plan 2017-20.

The Meeting ended at 4.05 p.m.