

Police and Fire and Rescue Committee  
6 February 2017

**IRVINE, 6 February 2017** - At a Meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

**Present**

Catherine McMillan, Grace McLean and Peter McNamara.

**In Attendance**

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

**Also In Attendance**

Chief Superintendent P. Main and B. Shaw (Police Scotland); and Group Manager K. Hankinson and Station Manager J. Anderson (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

**Chair**

Councillor McMillan, Vice-Chair in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Marie Burns and John Easdale.

**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 Councillors.

**2. Minutes**

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 November 2016 was confirmed, subject to noting that clarification had been provided by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service that, in respect of Item 5.1 (Positive Steps with Partners Project Update), Positive Steps volunteers were working forward an SCQF 4 award and not an SVQ 4 as stated in the report. The Minutes were then signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

**3. Performance Reports**

**3.1 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

Submitted report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) on progress against the North Ayrshire 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 2016 was set out in the appendix to the report.

Section 2.1 of the report provided an analysis of operational activity for the period 1 April to 31 December 2016, which identified a 14% increase in activity from the same period in 2015 and a 5% increase when compared with the corresponding three-year average. Section 2.2 summarised performance against six indicators, five of which were adrift of target and one, while showing a reduction on the previous three-year average, had not achieved its respective target.

The report also highlighted arrangements for the review of the current Local Fire and Rescue Plan for North Ayrshire and provided an indicative timetable for the development of a new Plan.

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

- the potential causes of the garden shed fires referred to in the appendix to the report;
- the reasons for false alarm calls from schools and hospitals;
- mechanisms for engaging with partners and the public in terms of the development of a new Local Fire and Rescue Plan for North Ayrshire; and
- the indicative timescale for consultation on a new Plan, given the timing of the local government elections.

The Committee agreed (a) to note (i) the content of the performance summary and associated report for the period 1 April to 31 December 2016, (ii) arrangements for the provision of feedback on the current Local fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17 for North Ayrshire and (iii) the indicative timescale for publication of the Draft Local fire and Rescue Plan for 2017 for North Ayrshire; and (b) that it be remitted to the Head of Democratic Services to liaise further with the Area Manager (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service) on the proposed consultation dates, in light of the local government elections.

Councillor Oldfather joined the meeting during consideration of this item.

### **3.2 Police Scotland**

Submitted report by Police Scotland on performance in relation to the North Ayrshire Local Police Plan for the period from 1 April to 31 December 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.

The report also noted the appointment of Chief Superintendent Paul Main to the role of Divisional Commander, Chief Superintendent Gillian MacDonald having moved to another post within Police Scotland.

Noted.

## **4. Police Scotland**

### **4.1 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, including updated in respect of the following:-

- Policing 2026
- Police Scotland Estates portfolio in North Ayrshire;
- Hogmanay 2016;
- "Lean in Circle";
- National Custody system;
- Organisational development; and
- Police call handling.

Members asked questions, and were provided with further information, on the following:-

- the potential for relocating the Largs Police Office to Brooksby;
- options for maintaining a Police Office presence in Kilwinning;
- the importance of Members and others having an opportunity to see at first hand the calling handling issues affecting Area Control Rooms/Service Centres;
- the number of reported instances of domestic violence around Hogmanay 2016 compared with previous years;
- the role of British Transport Police, including the value of introducing patrols on late evening trains where the public may have safety concerns;
- national changes to 'Stop and Search', with majority of searches now undertaken on a statutory basis, and the circumstances in which consensual searches of children and young people might still be undertaken;
- the importance of positive engagement with young people;
- the availability of adequate, localised data to allow proper scrutiny of the Service; and
- the need for suitable training to allow appropriate engagement with the LGBTI community.

The Committee agreed (a) to note that proposals for the relocation of Police Offices in Largs and Kilwinning would be the subject of consultation in due course; (b) that further information would be provided to Members on domestic violence statistics around the Hogmanay period 2016; (c) that Chief Superintendent Main would liaise with British Transport Police on the issue of public safety and patrols on late evening trains; (d) that an update on the use of 'Stop and Search' locally would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee; and (e) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

## **5. Consultations**

### **5.1 HMICS Scrutiny Plan 2017-18**

Submitted letter from HM Inspector of Constabulary requesting feedback on proposals for HMICS scrutiny in 2017-18 and suggestions as to any further areas which could be the subject of scrutiny.

Members considered the scrutiny proposals and identified the issue of missing persons with dementia as a potential area for scrutiny, given the number of people affected by dementia and the level of risk associated with the condition.

The Committee agreed that it be remitted to the Head of Democratic Services to respond to the consultation by requesting that the Police Scotland's work in respect of missing persons, particularly those with dementia, be included in the HMICS Scrutiny Plan for 2017-18.

### **5.2 Scottish Police Authority (SPA) Annual Review of Policing 2016/17**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Scottish Police Authority's request for information on local scrutiny arrangements. The SPA request was attached at Appendix 1 to the report and a draft consultation response set out at Appendix 2.

Members considered the draft consultation response and discussed the following:-

- strengthening the wording in the response to question 2 to reflect the Committee's frustration that it sometimes lacks sufficient, localised data to allow it to undertake its scrutiny role; and
- including in the consultation response a reference to the need for more engagement on a national level and the better connectivity between national and local scrutiny.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve the draft consultation response set out at Appendix 2, subject to the inclusion of the further points raised by Members during discussion; and (b) that it be remitted to the Head of Democratic Services to submit the consultation response, as revised.

The Meeting ended at 3.25 p.m.