

Police and Fire and Rescue Committee
10 June 2024

At a Meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m. involving a combination of participation by remote electronic means and physical attendance within the Council Chambers, Irvine.

Present (Physical Participation)

Donald Reid, Stewart Ferguson, Jean McClung, Davina McTiernan, Donald L. Reid, Angela Stephen and John Sweeney.

Present (Remote Attendance)

Scott Davidson.

In Attendance

C. Cochrane, Solicitor (Legal Services) and S. Wilson and H. Clancy, Committee Services Officers (Corporate Services).

Also In Attendance

Chief Superintendent R. Higgins and Chief Inspector F. Normansell (Police Scotland); and Area Commander I. McMeekin and N. Shearer (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

Chair

Councillor Donald Reid in the Chair.

Apologies

Amanda Kerr.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 11 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Committee held on 26 February 2024 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

The Solicitor (Legal Services) gave an update on the Firework Control Zones report approved by Cabinet on 4 June 2024 noting no further action could be taken until the call-in period had expired.

3. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Performance and Service Update

Submitted report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) which provided statistical information on progress against the North Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan for the period 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024. The report provided an analysis of the performance across six indicators, using the rolling three-year

average as a basis of measuring performance, together with a summary of priorities and current activity. Additional contextual information was provided by Area Commander McMeekin.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to:-

- deliberate fire setting and cooking related fires statistics within Saltcoats and Stevenston and prevention strategies undertaken by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service;
- Fire Service coverage within the Garnock Valley area;
- the volume of Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV) carried out in Saltcoats and Stevenston, with a third of these arising from post fire audits, and whether the Service were satisfied with the information relating to HFSV available to the public; and
- Fire Service coverage and challenges faced on the Isle of Arran and the Isle of Cumbrae.

Noted.

4. Police Scotland Performance Update

Submitted report by Police Scotland on performance in relation to the North Ayrshire Local Policing Plan for the period 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024. A summary of current local policing plan priorities was also detailed.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to:-

- partnership working between North Ayrshire Council and Police Scotland to address anti-social behaviour;
- action taken from the test purchasing operation undertaken in licensed premises;
- public engagement opportunities to encourage crime reports to be submitted to Police Scotland;
- changes to the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 and how this impacted allocation of Police presence at reported crimes; and
- taser deployment and response handling figures for 101 calls for Quarter 4.

Noted.

5. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Review Online Survey

A verbal update was provided by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in respect of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Review Online Survey. Supporting information and the 'Shaping Our Future Service: Your Say' questionnaire were included in the agenda.

Noted.

6. Presentation by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) on recent Kilwinning battery recycling centre incident

A short presentation was provided by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service on the recent Fenix Battery Recycling Centre, Kilwinning incident.

A Member asked a question and was provided with further information in relation to the 70 appliances present at the incident and the stations these were deployed from.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, commended the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for their response to the Fenix Battery Recycling Centre incident.

Noted.

7. Urgent Items

There were no urgent items.

The meeting ended at 3:50 p.m.