

Police and Fire and Rescue Committee
29 November 2021

At a Meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

John Glover, Jimmy Miller, Ellen McMaster, Davina McTiernan, Donald L. Reid and Ronnie Stalker.

In Attendance

A. Craig, Head of Service (Democratic), H. Clancy and C. Stewart, Committee Services Officers (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

Chief Superintendent Hussain and Temporary Chief Inspector A. Paterson (Police Scotland); Area Commander I. McMeekin, Station Commander P. Timmons, Local Authority Liaison Officer G. Tait (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

Chair

Councillor Glover in the Chair.

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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 Minutes of the Meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Committee held on 17 August 2021 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

4. Chair and Vice-Chair Verbal Updates

There were no updates provided.

5. Police Scotland Consultation on the Review of Development of Local Police Plans

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Democratic) on the consultation response submitted in terms of the Review of Local Police Plans for 2020-23. The response was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The response recognised the programme of engagement undertaken by Police Scotland in preparing the most recent Plan and that subsequent consultation and more in-depth engagement would take place.

The Committee noted the terms of the consultation response submitted.

Councillor Stalker joined the meeting at this point.

6. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Consultation on Strategic Plan 2019-2022

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Democratic) on the consultation request and proposed response on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Plan 2019-2022. The response, reflecting on the positive working relationship fostered between the Council and SFRS and offering some comment for future inclusion in the next SFRS Strategic Plan, was detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Committee agreed to (a) note the terms of the consultation request; and (b) approve submission of the draft response detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

7. Fire and Rescue Framework Consultation

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Democratic) on the request for feedback to inform the provision of a consultation response on the next Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland. The Strategic Priorities, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, provided feedback on the seven proposed Strategic Priorities detailed at section 2.2 of the report. Views will be collated and considered by Scottish Ministers in finalisation of the Framework.

The Committee agreed (a) to provide the feedback on the proposed Strategic Priorities outlined at Appendix 1 to the report to enable a consultation response to be formulated; and (b) to authorise the Head of Service (Democratic) to submit a response to the Scottish Government on behalf of the Committee, in consultation with the Chair.

8. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Consultation on Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Democratic) on the response submitted to the consultation in terms of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS).

The response, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, recognised the challenges presented by attending UFAS and indicated concern regarding possible diminution in service provision and the associated risks. Similarly, the response recognised the risks to responding quickly to other emergencies if appliances were otherwise engaged on false alarms.

Noted.

9. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Performance

Submitted report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service which provided information on the progress against the North Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan for the period 1 April 2021 – 30 September 2021. Appendix A to the report provided an analysis of the performance across six indicators, using the rolling three-year average as a basis of measuring performance. Appendix B detailed the recently published 2020-21 Incident Statistics Report.

Review of performance against the six indicators identified four indicators were below, one indicator above and one the same as the three-year average. Data on Home Fire Safety Visits, Fire Safety Audits and the retained duty system was also provided within the report.

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

- The awareness raising work to address fire related incidents in the Stevenston; and
- Work with local communities, including schools and youth groups to prevent deliberate fire setting.

Noted.

10. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service: Upcoming Changes in Fire Alarm Legislation

Local Authority Liaison Officer Gary Tait, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service provided a presentation on the upcoming changes in fire alarm legislation.

The presentation provided information on: -

- The Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 (Tolerable Standard) (Extension of Criteria) Order 2019 new element that was introduced;
- The recommendations from the Building and Fire Safety Working Group;
- The delay in the Implementation of the legislation; and
- Requirements for all domestic properties.

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

- costs related to the installation of detectors; and
- the follow up by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service following the implementation date.

Noted.

11. Police Scotland Performance Report

Submitted report by Police Scotland on performance in relation to the North Ayrshire Local Policing Plan for the period 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021.

The report provided details of North Ayrshire's performance including a 7.9% decrease in the total number of crimes. The report outlined progress in the areas of serious crime, safer communities, acquisitive crime, community wellbeing, road safety and public confidence.

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

- The effectiveness of the CCTV in the three towns area;
- Clarification on the Anti-social behaviour tickets issued;
- Clarification on the policy for substance misuse;
- Impact of COP26 on policing in North Ayrshire.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 3.50 p.m.