

**Police and Fire and Rescue Committee**  
**3 September 2019**

**IRVINE, 3 September 2019** - At a Meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

**Present**

John Glover, Todd Ferguson, Ellen McMaster, Davina McTiernan, Jimmy Miller and Angela Stephen.

**In Attendance**

A. Craig, Senior Manager (Legal Services) and A. Little, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

**Also In Attendance**

Chief Superintendent M. Hargreaves and Chief Inspector B. Shaw (Police Scotland); Area Manager I. McMeekin and Station Manager Steven Corrigan (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

**Chair**

Councillor Glover in the Chair.

**Apologies**

Donald L. Reid.

**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 May 2019 was confirmed and signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

**3. Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He advised that as a result of ill-health Councillor D. L. Reid had resigned as Chair of the Committee. Once fully recovered, Councillor Reid would return as a Member of the Committee

The Committee took the opportunity to thank Councillor D. L. Reid for his work as Chair of the Committee, wishing him a speedy recovery and return to good health.

#### **4. Presentation**

The Committee received a presentation by Niven Rennie, Director, on the work of the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit (SVRU), a national centre of expertise in tackling violence. Working in partnership with Police Scotland and the Scottish Government, the SVRU aims to prevent violence wherever it's found from the streets, to our classrooms, homes and workplaces. The Unit was founded in 2005 by Strathclyde Police with the aim to make Scotland the safest country in the world by taking a public health approach which treats violence as a disease;

The presentation provided information on the work of the SVRU and highlighted a range of programmes and initiatives including:

- The Navigator project that works in emergency departments in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Ayrshire that aims to stop the revolving door of violent injury in hospitals by connecting with patients affected by violence;
- The Street&Arrow project, a social enterprise which serves up second chances to people with convictions;
- Scotland's largest anti-violence schools programme - Mentors in Violence;
- Ask Support Care (ASC) training programme which aims to give everyone from vets to hairdressers the skills to reach out to those who have become victims of domestic abuse;
- Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) that can affect a person's whole life – trauma, suicide, alcohol abuse, homelessness, violence;
- The role that alcohol plays in violence and the need to get to the root of Scotland's relationship with alcohol;
- Looked after children and the high rates of homelessness; and
- Young people carrying knives for protection.

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

- Navigator projects that are located in the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow and the University Hospital Crosshouse, Kilmarnock;
- The aim to expand the Street&Arrow project across Scotland; and
- Funding streams for projects and work that is being done to move projects to be self-funded.

The Committee thanked the Director for his informative and interesting presentation.

Noted.

#### **5. Chair and Vice Chair Verbal Updates**

The Committee noted that there were no verbal updates.

## **6.1 Performance Report: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

Submitted report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) which provided an update on the progress against the North Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan and gave other key updates. A copy of the North Ayrshire Performance report from 1 April 2018 to 30 June 2019 was set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

The report identified an 7% increase in activity levels across North Ayrshire compared to the previous year. Attendance at fire related incidents accounted for 42% of all activity within North Ayrshire, with false alarms and special service incidents accounting for 48% and 10% respectively.

Progress against the six agreed performance indicators noted that three indicators had seen a reduction in their respective 3-year average, whilst the other three indicators had seen an increase in activity.

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

- deliberate fire setting in the Stevenston area that involved wheelie bins and areas of open land and prevention work by the Fire and Rescue Service to clear some of the land and access areas ;
- awareness raising work that is being done to prevent fire raising; and
- The detection of a youth for the fire raising in Kilwinning and hopes to include him on the Fire Reach Programme.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Fire and Rescue Service provide a report to the next meeting on deliberate fire raising in the Kilwinning and Stevenston areas; and (b) to otherwise note the report.

## **6.2 Performance Report: Police Scotland**

Submitted report by Police Scotland on performance in relation to the North Ayrshire Local Police Plan for the period from 1 April 2019 to 31 July 2019.

The report provided details of North Ayrshire's performance including a 4.2% rise in the total number of crimes. Contextual information was provided in respect of:-

- a slight decrease in domestic abuse incidents;
- a reduction in the reporting of hate crime;
- no change in the rates of violence and antisocial behaviour but a reduction in disorder complaints;
- an increase in serious organised crime detections relating to drug supply and possession;
- the remaining terrorism and domestic extremism threat level of Severe;
- an increase in protecting people at risk from harm which includes crimes of a sexual nature;
- road safety and road crime which saw a reduction in road traffic casualties and increase in speeding enforcement;
- a reduction in housebreaking crimes; and
- data on public confidence complaints and user satisfaction.

Members asked questions and received further information in relation to:-

- partnership links to education in schools through the campus cops and the locality policing teams;
- links between poverty and crime;
- vandalism of public play areas in Kilwinning;
- The detection of two youths responsible for the vandalism of a number of vehicles in the Stevenston area;
- Road engineering works completed at Burnhouse and Gateside that will assist in the reduction of speeding at these locations;
- Continuation of the rural speeding initiative;
- Information that will be relayed to the public to alert them to the demolition, by explosion, of a test off shore wind turbine at the Peel Port site at Hunterston; and
- local engagement that will be arranged with Neighbourhood Watch Groups.

Noted.

#### **7. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Consultation on the 3 Year Strategic Plan**

Submitted report by the Senior Manager, Legal Services on the response submitted to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service on the 3 Year Strategic Plan, set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Committee noted the response submitted to Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

#### **8. Scottish Police Authority Annual Review of Policing Consultation**

Submitted report by the Senior Manager, Legal Services on the response to the submitted to Scottish Police Authority on the Annual Review of Policing, set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Committee noted the response submitted to Scottish Police Authority.

#### **9. Scottish Government Consultation on the Review of Strategic Priorities**

Submitted report by the Senior Manager, Legal Services on the Scottish Government's consultation paper on draft strategic Police Priorities for Scotland, which sought responses by 4 October 2019. The consultation paper was attached at Appendix 1 and the draft response was detailed at Appendix 2 to the report.

The Committee agreed the draft response, detailed at Appendix 2 to the report, be submitted to the Scottish Government by 4 October 2019.

The meeting ended at 3.50 p.m.