

Police and Fire and Rescue Committee
8 February 2022

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, Davina McTiernan, Donald L. Reid and Ronnie Stalker.

In Attendance

C. Stewart and A. Little, 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 D. McGuire, Kilmarnock Community Fire Station and A. Irving, Group Commander, Prevention & Protection (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

Chair

Councillor Glover in the Chair.

Apologies

Ellen McMaster and Angela Stephen.

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 29 November 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. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Performance Report and Service Updates

Submitted report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) on performance in relation to North Ayrshire for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 December 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 provided information on legislative changes to fire and smoke alarms which took effect on 1 February 2022 in Scotland.

An analysis of operational responses within North Ayrshire for the period in question identified a 2.3% decrease in activity levels across the local authority area when compared to the corresponding period in 2020. A further review of the three years average indicated a 3.1% decrease in overall operational activity during a similar timeframe.

In terms of reviewing operational activity on a broader level, the report also identified that false alarms accounted for 58% of all demand within North Ayrshire, with fire related and special service activity accounting for 26% and 16%, respectively.

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

- Partnership working, which had contributed to significant benefits throughout North Ayrshire and measures to help and assist in the recruitment of firefighters;
- Statistical information in relation to deliberate fire setting in certain areas of North Ayrshire including measures to tackle this problem; and
- Control measures to deal with unwanted fire alarm signals (UFAS), which had been subject to delay.

Noted.

6. 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 31 December 2021.

The report provided details of North Ayrshire's performance including a 9.4% 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: -

- A forthcoming Three Towns charette, which was being organised by North Ayrshire Council, taking place at Saltcoats Town Hall towards the end of February 2022 including attendance at same; and
- The spotlight on wilful fire-raising contained in the report.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 3.30 p.m.