

**Police and Fire and Rescue Committee
25 August 2020**

25 August 2020 - At a Virtual Meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

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

In Attendance

A. Craig, Senior Manager (Legal Services), A. Little and E Gray, Committee Services Officers (Chief Executive's Service) and M. Lindsay, Senior Customer Officer (People and ICT).

Also In Attendance

Chief Superintendent Hussain, Chief Inspector B. Shaw (Police Scotland); Area Commander I. McMeekin, K. Hankinson, C. Clark and P Storrie (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

Chair

Councillor Glover in the Chair.

Apologies

Todd Ferguson.

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 Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 4 February 2020 were 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.

4. Chair and Vice Chair Verbal Updates

The Chair expressed his appreciation for the updates that had been provided to Members by Police Scotland and Council staff in relation to the anticipated gatherings at Irvine Beach Park and the Safer Shores operation.

5 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Performance Report

Submitted report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) which provided information on the progress against the North Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan for the period April 2019 – March 2020.

The report identified an 3% increase in activity levels across North Ayrshire compared to the previous year. Progress against the six agreed performance indicators noted that all indicators had seen a reduction in their respective 3-year average. Statistical information provided, illustrated reductions in domestic accidental dwelling fires (8%) and casualties (47%), unintentional injury and harm (38%), deliberate fire setting (2%), non-domestic fire safety (6%), and unwanted fire alarm signals (7%). Attendance at false alarms and special service incidents had accounted for 7% and 2% respectively. Data on Home Fire Safety Visits, Fire Safety Audits and the retained duty system was also provided within the report.

The Committee was provided with details of the fire skills courses for young people to prevent deliberate fire setting and partnership work with the Campus Cops and Locality Policing Teams to address this area within North Ayrshire. The Committee was also advised of engagement and preventative work with the caravan site at Sandylands following a recent caravan fire.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

6. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Quarter 1 Performance Report

Submitted report by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service on performance in relation to North Ayrshire for the period 1 April - 30 June 2020.

The report highlighted there had been a reduction of 16% in the total number of incidents during Quarter 1. Of the 698 incidents, 228 had been primary and secondary fires, 104 special services and 367 false alarms. One Fire Safety Audit and 101 Home Fire Safety Visits had been undertaken during this period. Consultation will shortly begin with partners and the Committee on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Local Plans.

The Committee was also advised of the successful implementation of the Disruptive Weather Plan following flooding in Glengarnock.

The Committee expressed its appreciation for the full and informative report.

Noted.

7. Police Scotland Performance Report

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 March 2020.

The report provided details of North Ayrshire's performance including a 1.8% rise in the total number of crimes. The executive summary outlined progress in the priority areas of drug supply and misuse, violence and anti-social behaviour, dishonesty and road safety. Statistical and contextual information was provided in respect of recorded incidents that included:-

- An increasing trend in the number of sexual crimes, with non-recent crimes recorded at their highest ever level;
- The lowering of the terrorism and domestic extremism threat level to Substantial;
- A reduction in serious violent crime and serious assaults and a small increase in the number of assaults on Police Officers and other emergency workers;
- An increase in domestic abuse crime, with non-recent reports of abuse continuing to rise;
- Little change in the number of hate crimes reported;
- A significant reduction in the number of people killed or injured on our roads;
- The lowest ever number of housebreakings and an increase in detection rates; and
- Data on public confidence complaints and user satisfaction.

Noted.

8. Police Scotland Performance Report – Quarter 1 Performance Report

Submit report by Police Scotland on performance in relation to North Ayrshire Local Police Plan for the period 1 April - 31 July 2020.

The report provided details of North Ayrshire's performance including a 6.7% decrease in the total number of crimes recorded during Quarter 1. Whilst the impact of Covid-19 on crime and offence levels may not be known for some time, there had been a decrease in several crime areas, which included minor violent crime, sexual crimes, fire-raising/vandalism, shoplifting, drug supply and speeding. An increase had been recorded in motor vehicle crimes, fraud and driving without insurance. Operation TALLA had been established to deliver a full response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the report outlined the strategic objectives set for the operation.

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

- support that was provided to some local licensed premises to ensure social distancing measures were in place and being adhered to;
- a few fixed penalty notices that had been issued to individuals who had flouted social distancing rules;
- the co-operation of young people in the early stages of lockdown and challenges that will be faced as larger gatherings are permitted;
- work with schools by the Locality Policing Teams and Campus Cops to reinforce measures at each stage of the Scottish Government's road map through and out of the crisis;
- stringent criteria that requires to be met for any firearm operations in Scotland;

- the nature of transphobic hate crime and the support that is provided to the victims of transphobic hate crime by Police Scotland in partnership with the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team;
- Further work that will be done by Campus Cops, in conjunction with Environmental Health and shopkeepers around local schools, to reinforce the message on the requirement for secondary pupils to wear face coverings in shops; and
- That a young male had been apprehended and reported to the Procurator Fiscal in relation to the caravan fire at Sandylands.

The Committee acknowledged the excellent work by Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Services in Glengarnock following the recent flooding and expressed its appreciation for the full and informative report.

Noted.

Councillor Miller left the meeting at this point.

7. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Consultation on Local Plans

Submitted report by the Senior Manager (Legal Services) on the response submitted to the consultation on Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's Local Plans, which was being revised to reflect the new Strategic Plan.

The response, attached at Appendix 1 to the report and submitted prior to the deadline of 18 March 2020, highlighted the importance of the local Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) continuing to be able to respond to emergencies as core functions as well as the preventative strategy to improve outcomes or communities and protect people from harm. The excellent service provided locally by SFRS was acknowledged.

The Committee agreed to (a) note (i) the response submitted on behalf of the Committee in respect of SFRS Local Plans; and (ii) that further consultation was being proposed by the Area Commander on the Local Plan; and (b) agreed that the response to the consultation be coordinated by the Senior Manager, Legal Services and a response prepared in consultation with the Chair.

8. Scottish Police Authority Consultation on Joint Strategy for Policing 2020

Submitted report by the Senior Manager (Legal Services) on the response submitted to the consultation on the Joint Strategy for Policing, which was being revised following the Scottish Government's update of its Strategic Police Priorities.

The response, attached at Appendix 1 to the report and submitted prior to the deadline of 2 March 2020, welcomed the priorities suggested by the Scottish Police Authority and confirmed the Council looks forward to continuing to work in partnership with the Police to improve outcomes for our communities.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 3.50 p.m.