

Police and Fire and Rescue Committee
30 May 2017

IRVINE, 30 May 2017 - At a Meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m..

Present

Donald L Reid, Todd Ferguson, Davina McTiernan and Angela Stephen.

Also Present

Ian Murdoch.

In Attendance

A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Services, C. Andrew, Senior Manager Legal Services and M. Anderson, Committee Services Team Leader (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

Temporary Superintendent T. Ross and Chief Inspector B. Shaw (Police Scotland); Area Manager J. Scott and Group Manager K. Hankinson (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

Chair

Councillor L. Reid

Apologies for Absence

Ellen McMaster and Louise McPhater

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. Consultations

2.1 Presentation on North Ayrshire Draft Local Fire Rescue Plan 2017

The Committee received a presentation by the Area Manager Jim Scott of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service on the draft Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2017.

The presentation highlighted the following:-

- the Local Fire Rescue Plan review in the context of the new national Strategic Plan;
- operational demand over the last three years and progress against priorities within the 2014-17 Local Plan;
- the six proposed priorities set out in the new draft Local Plan, namely Domestic Safety, Unintentional Harm and Injury, Deliberate Fire-Setting, Non-Domestic Fire Safety, Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals and Operational Resilience and Preparedness; and

- consultation on the new draft Local Plan, which ends on 2 July 2017.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- any practical measures which might reduce the number of attendances when the Service was not required;
- the age profile of casualties of accidental dwelling fires;
- the types of incidents which would be classified as "non-refuse fires";
- the definition of "relevant premises";
- the proportion of unwanted fire alarm signal calls which could be attributed to care homes;
- whether there was any cost to premises as a result of unwanted fire alarm signal calls;
- the provision of training which might help premises to avoid unnecessary call-outs;
- partnership work to address multiple issues for vulnerable service users; and
- the importance of retained fire crews across Ayrshire.

On behalf of the committee, the Chair extended his thanks to the Fire and Rescue Service for their work and, in particular, the work of its retained staff.

Noted.

2.2 Local Fire and Rescue Service Plan for North Ayrshire 2017 and review of North Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Service Plan 2014-2017

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the North Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Service Plan Review 2014-17 and the proposed response to the consultation on the draft Local Fire and Rescue Service Plan for North Ayrshire 2017. The review document was attached at Appendix 1 to the report. The draft Local Fire and Rescue Service Plan and the Council's proposed response to the consultation were set out at Appendices 2 and 3, respectively.

Area Manager Jim Scott (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service) provided clarification on points highlighted in the proposed response, advising that:-

- the draft Plan covered a three-year period, albeit it could be subject to review within that period;

- the importance of seeking to align data with Localities was recognised and progress was being made towards achieving this; and
- nationally, there had been a move away from annual target-setting, but that data would still be presented in such a way as to show the direction of travel year on year and over longer periods.

The Committee agreed to (a) note the terms of the North Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Service Plan Review 2014-17; and (b) to approve the Council's response to the Consultation on the draft Local Fire and Rescue Service Plan for North Ayrshire 2017, as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, subject to minor amendment to take into account the matters highlighted by the Area Manager (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

2.3. HMICS Scrutiny Plan 2017-18

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the outcome of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland consultation on its Annual Scrutiny Plan 2017/18. The Annual Scrutiny Plan was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

That the Committee agrees to note the content of the HMICS Annual Scrutiny Plan 2017/18, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

2.4 Consultation - Draft 10 Year Strategy for Policing in Scotland

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the proposed response to the Consultation Paper on the Draft 10 Year Strategy for Policing. The 10 Year Plan was attached at Appendix 1 to the report and the draft response to the consultation at Appendix 2.

The Senior Manager, Legal Services, made reference to a typographical error within the third last paragraph of the draft response and undertook to clarify the wording.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- the application of local empowerment in addressing the priorities of communities;
- the importance of partnership working; and
- the availability of data on a locality basis.

The Committee agreed to approve the draft response attached at Appendix 2 to the report, as amended, as the Council's response to the consultation.

3. Performance Reports

3.1 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Submitted report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) which provided an update on progress against the North Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17 and gave other key Fire and Rescue updates. A copy of the North Ayrshire Performance report from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 was set out in the appendix to the report.

The undernoted elements of the report were highlighted:-

- the reduction, when compared with the previous year, in the number of accidental dwelling fires, fire casualties and fatalities and non-fire emergency casualties;
- the increase in deliberate fire-setting incidents;
- the number of fire safety audits undertaken in the last year; and
- factors contributing to the significant increase in the number of unwanted fire alarm signals.

Noted.

3.2 Police Scotland

Submitted report by Police Scotland on performance in relation to the North Ayrshire Local Police Plan for the period from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017. A copy of the performance report was set out in the appendix to the report.

Temporary Superintendent Tim Ross extended an invitation to Members of the Committee to visit the Police Scotland Control Centre in Govan. He also referred to the availability of a presentation on serious and organised crime, and undertook to provide Members with any further information they may wish on crime figures.

The undernoted elements of the report were highlighted:-

- the North Ayrshire policing priorities for 2014-17 and Police Scotland's national priorities for the period 2017-18;
- the benefits of Police Scotland's use of social media and some examples of social media feeds;
- the reduction in violence and disorder and domestic abuse cases;
- factors influencing the detection rate in relation to sexual crimes, including the difficulties associated with investigating cases of historical sexual abuse;
- the background to the number of missing persons incidents and the circumstances surrounding multiple reporting for the same individual;

- the current level of threat nationally in terms of terrorism;
- the significant resources committed to tackling housebreaking; and
- the future management of the Police estate.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- the factors which contribute to the classification of an incident as a 'hate crime';
- factors affecting the detection rate for housebreaking offences; and
- the future of Largs Police Office

The Chair expressed his appreciation for the work of local Police Officers within his Ward, particularly Sergeant Murdoch and Inspector McMillan and, on behalf of the Committee, extended his thanks to Police Scotland for their work within North Ayrshire.

The Committee agreed (a) to note that Temporary Superintendent Ross would liaise with the Committee Services Team Leader regarding arrangements for Members to visit the Police Scotland Control Centre in Govan; and (b) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

The Meeting ended at 4.00 p.m.