

Police and Fire and Rescue Committee

17 May 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 and Donald L. Reid.

In Attendance

A. Craig, Senior Manager (Legal Services), A. Little, H. Clancy and C. Stewart, Committee Services Officers (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

Chief Superintendent Hussain, Superintendent D. Frew and Temporary Chief Inspector A. Paterson (Police Scotland); Area Commander I. McMeekin, Temporary Group Commander E. Kenna and K. Rennie (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

Chair

Councillor Glover in the Chair.

Apologies

Todd Ferguson and Angela Stephen.

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 27 October 2020 were confirmed and the Minutes 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. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 February 2021 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

5. Chair and Vice Chair Verbal Updates

There were no updates provided.

6. 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 1 April 2020 – 31 March 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.

Review of performance against the six indicators identified three indicators were below, two indicators were above, and one remained constant with no change in comparison to the three-year average. One indicator had seen a reduction in the three-year average by more than 13% and two others had reduced by 12% and 2%. The statistical information illustrated reductions in the total number of incidents by 1%, which included decreases in primary and secondary fires by 15% and non-fire casualties by 18%. 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:-

- a refresh of the current Local Fire and Rescue Plan to align its review with the new Fire and Rescue Service Framework for Scotland that will be published in the next 12 months;
- how visits to care homes and sheltered housing were being carried out during the pandemic;
- funding for a range of youth engagement activities that include the Youth Volunteer Scheme; and
- the positive drop in fire related incidents in the previous year; and work that is ongoing with partner agencies to address fire related incidents in the Stevenston.

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 2020 to 31 March 2021.

The report provided details of North Ayrshire's performance including a 2.9% decrease 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: -

- Operation TALLA, Police Scotland's operational response to the pandemic;
- a reduction in housebreaking, hate crimes, serious assaults, sexual crimes, road safety and road crimes;
- an increase in robbery, anti-social behaviour; and
- data on complaints about the Police and satisfaction surveys

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

- the use of Tasers by officers in North Ayrshire for the period 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021 that saw 112 incidents, the deployment of Tasers on 42 occasions and on those occasions when tasers were drawn, they were aimed 5 times, arced twice and discharged once;
- a significant increase in Anti-Social Behaviour incidents as a result of the inclusion of breaches of Covid restrictions within this statistical category;
- an Action Plan that has been put in place to address anti-social behaviour by groups of young people gathering in various locations in North Ayrshire; and
- the involvement of North Ayrshire officers in controlling disorder at the gathering of football supporters in George Square, Ibrox and surrounding areas;

The Committee expressed its appreciation of the work of Police Scotland and highlighted the efforts of Inspector Alison Wilson and her team in addressing anti-social behaviour at Ardeer Park and the peninsula and keeping the local community and Elected Members advised.

Noted.

8. North Ayrshire Local Police Plan

Submitted report by the Senior Manager (Legal Services) on the North Ayrshire Local Police Plan 2021/23. The Plan was attached at Appendix 1 to the report and detailed the five policing priorities:-

- Serious crime;
- Safer communities;
- Acquisitive crime;
- Community wellbeing; and
- Road policing.

Superintendent Frew provided information on the Plan which sets out the local policing priorities and objectives for North Ayrshire for 2021-23. The Plan reflected Community Planning Partners' priorities and was aligned with Police Scotland's and the Scottish Police Authority's Joint Strategy for Policing, "Policing for a safe, protected and resilient Scotland".

The Committee agreed to recommend to the Council approval of the Local Policing Plan 2021-23 set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

9. Public Engagement in relation to Body Worn Video Cameras

Submitted report by the Senior Manager (Legal Services) on the consultation response provided to Police Scotland in relation to the proposal to introduce the use of body worn video cameras for Police Officers. The response was attached at Appendix 1 to the report and provided high level feedback and concluded that, subject to the necessary training of officers, an operating code of practice and adherence to legislation in respect of data protection, the proposal would represent

a valuable step forward in modern day policing.

Noted.

9. Valedictory

The Committee took the opportunity to thank Chief Inspector Brian Shaw for his contribution to the work of the Committee and wished him every success in his new temporary role as Superintendent. Thanks were also extended to Group Commander Kenny Hankinson for his contribution to the Committee and the Committee wished him well in his retirement from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

The Committee welcomed temporary Chief Inspector Alan Paterson (Police Scotland) and temporary Group Commander Eddie Kenna (Scottish Fire and Rescue) to the Committee and to their contribution to future meetings.

The meeting ended at 3.30 p.m.