

Police and Fire and Rescue Committee
27 October 2020

27 October 2020 - 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 Angela Stephen.

In Attendance

A. Craig, Senior Manager (Legal Services), A. Little, D. McCaw and E Gray, Committee Services Officers (Chief Executive's Service)..

Also In Attendance

Chief Superintendent Hussain, Chief Inspector B. Shaw (Police Scotland); K. Hankinson and C. McFie (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

Chair

Councillor Glover in the Chair.

Apologies

Todd Ferguson, Ellen McMaster, and Area Commander I. McMeekin (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

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 25 August 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. Chair and Vice Chair Verbal Updates

The Chair advised of information that had been published recently on new fire regulations for domestic dwellings and sought an update from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Group Manager Hankinson reported that the leaflet distributed to homes was premature and the regulations would not come into effect until February 2022.

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 1 April 2019 – 30 September 2020. Appendix A to the report provided analysis of the performance and Appendix B examined how the Covid19 pandemic had impacted on local operational activity.

Review of performance against the six indicators identified three indicators were below, one indicator remained unchanged and two were above the three-year average. One indicator had seen a reduction in the three-year average by more than 20% and three others had reduced by 8% and 4%. Statistical information provided, illustrated reductions in the total number of incidents by 8%, which included primary and secondary fires decreasing by (22%) and false alarms by (4%). 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 further information in relation to the low rate of 2 fire casualties in 2019/20 and the rise to 11 in 2020 that accounted for the 450% rise in this category and advised that a more meaningful comparison could be seen over a longer period. In particular, the rate of fire casualties was down 16% over a 5-year period.

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 1.6% 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: -

- Operation TALLA, Police Scotland's operational response to the pandemic and the use of the four Es approach – Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforcement;
- the issue of 117 Fixed Penalty Notices for not adhering to COVID restrictions;
- a reduction in sexual crimes, fire-raising/vandalism, shoplifting and speeding;
- an increase in motor vehicle crimes, fraud, driving without insurance or licence and drink/drug driving; and
- the Your Police Survey that was being undertaken to gather views on the policing response to the coronavirus, public confidence and perception of crime in local areas and assist in revising policing plans.

Committee was provided with further information in relation to:

- the stringent criteria that required to be met for any firearms operations in Scotland, scrutiny of operations to ensure the use of firearms had been appropriate and that only specially trained officers carry and used tasers;
- the recent recovery of firearms in North Ayrshire;
- compliance by the majority of the population with Covid restrictions and Operation TALLA which was used to engage, explain, encourage and then enforce restrictions where required;
- fixed Penalty Notices issued for non-compliance with Covid restrictions and, where appropriate, engagement with partner agencies to assist repeat offenders when it was identified they were unable to comply with current restrictions;
- a change in the recording process of missing people data that now included young people from looked after accommodation; and
- the targeting of speeding that would be undertaken in specific areas within North Ayrshire over the next few days.

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

Noted.

The meeting ended at 2.55 p.m.