

Police and Fire and Rescue Committee
15 May 2018

Present

Donald L. Reid, Davina McTiernan, Jimmy Miller and Angela Stephen.

In Attendance

A. Craig, Senior Manager, Legal Services and M. Anderson, Committee Services Team Leader (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

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

Chair

Councillor Donald L. Reid in the Chair.

Apologies

Todd Ferguson, John Glover and Ellen McMaster.

1. Chair's Remarks

The Chair took the opportunity to welcome Councillor Miller as a new member of the Committee.

In terms of Standing Order 9.4, the Chair agreed to vary the order of business to allow earlier consideration of items to be presented by Police Scotland, to facilitate Chief Superintendent Main's attendance at another engagement.

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. Chair and Vice Chair Verbal Updates

The Chair provided a brief verbal report on a visit by Members of the Committee to the Scottish Fire and Rescue National Training Centre in Cambuslang and the Police Scotland Crime Campus at Gartcosh on 27 March 2018. On behalf of the Committee, he extended his thanks to both agencies for the visit and to officers for making the necessary arrangements.

The Chair also reported on the participation of Police youth volunteers based in Cumnock in the annual litter pick in Beith, and expressed the hope that a similar group would in future be established in Irvine.

The Chair concluded his report by commenting on a presentation given on 19 April 2018 by Karen McCluskey from the Community Justice Scotland team, who had offered a useful insight into the vicious cycle of crime often associated with use of

short prison sentences. He suggested that the Committee may wish to invite the speaker to make a similar presentation to a future meeting.

In the absence of Councillor Glover, there was no Vice Chair update.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Clerk make the necessary arrangements to invite Karen McCluskey of Community Justice Scotland to make a presentation to a future meeting of the Committee; and (b) otherwise, to note the report.

3. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Committee held on 6 February 2018 and the Special Meeting of the Committee held on 29 March 2018 was confirmed and signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

4. Performance Report: Police Scotland

Submitted report by Police Scotland on performance in relation to the North Ayrshire Local Police Plan for the period from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

Chief Superintendent Main reported on North Ayrshire's strong performance over the course of 2017/18, including a reduction of 6.7% in terms of total crime and a drop in recorded incidents of nearly 2%, and commented on the positive contribution made by both Chief Inspector Shaw's team and Community Planning partners.

Contextual information was provided in respect of domestic abuse, hate crime, violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour, house breakings, serious organised crime, terrorism and domestic extremism and protecting people at risk.

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

- the terminology used in the report, including PYTD (previous year to date) and CYTD (current year to date);
- the circumstances surrounding the steady increase in the reporting of sexual crimes, including the positive impact of rising public confidence in terms of reporting and the growth in sexual crimes associated with social media platforms;
- the statistics relating to the supply of drugs and successes in terms of detections for drug supply;
- prompt Police action to address a recent issue relating to the (incorrect) reporting on social media of the location of two sex offenders;
- the increase in online fraud and acquisitive crimes more generally, and the skills required to tackle this; and
- a successful joint exercise between Police Scotland and colleagues within Trading Standards to tackle the dumping of used tyres, and a forthcoming campaign to address doorstep crime.

Noted.

5. North Ayrshire Local Policing Plan 2018-2021

Submitted report by the Senior Manager, Legal Services, on the terms of the North Ayrshire Local Policing Plan 2018-2021. The Plan itself was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Chief Superintendent Main provided information on the Plan which sets out the local policing priorities and objectives for North Ayrshire for 2018-2021. The Plan aligns with Police Scotland's 2026 Strategy and Annual Police Plan for 2018-2019 which details wider policing priorities including those on Serious Organised Crime (SOC), Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism.

The five local priorities were detailed as:-

- drug dealing and misuse;
- violence and anti-social behaviour;
- dishonesty;
- road safety; and
- protecting people at risk of harm.

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

- the closure of local Police stations and the effectiveness of the contact centre in terms of call handling; and
- the level of commitment to Neighbourhood Watch and the importance of good communication between the Police and local volunteers.

The Committee agreed to recommend to the Council approval of the Local Policing Plan 2018-2021 set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

6. Performance Report: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Submitted report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service 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 2017 to 31 March 2018 was set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

The report identified a 2% decrease in activity levels across North Ayrshire compared with the corresponding period in 2016/17, and a 7% increase in terms of the preceding three years average. False alarms accounted for 53% of all activity within North Ayrshire, with fire related activity and special service activity accounting for 35% and 12% respectively. Review of performance against the six agreed performance indicators noted that four indicators were above the three year average due to a rise in activity, one had seen a reduction in the respective three year average of more than 5%, with one indicator seeing a slight reduction of 2% over the rolling 3 year average. In terms of year on year comparisons, four indicators have seen a decrease from the previous twelve month period, with two indicators increasing.

The report provided an update in terms of public consultation feedback on the transformation agenda, the agreement reached on the terms and conditions of service

of Uniformed personnel, and a demonstration of the Rapid Response Unit which took place on 2 May 2018 at the Regional Training Centre, Portlethen.

Area Manager Jim Scott also reported verbally on:-

- a typographical error within the summary data provided as part of Appendix 1 to the report, the total number of false alarms within North Ayrshire being 1,312 and not 131; and
- an announcement by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's Chief Officer of his intention to retire at the end of March 2019.

The Senior Manager (Legal Services) then provided a short verbal update, confirming that, in accordance with the decision of the Special Meeting held on 29 March 2018, a consultation response in respect of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Transformation had been prepared and submitted on behalf the Committee.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the likely timescale for the introduction to Arran of the new Rapid Response Unit and the features associated with this type of appliance.

Noted.

6. Scottish Police Authority (SPA): Annual Review of Policing Policy

Submitted letter from the SPA requesting feedback to assist with the Annual Review of Policing for 2017/18 which requires to be laid before Parliament in Autumn 2018 and which includes an assessment of the performance of Police Scotland and the SPA. A set of questions to inform the review was attached as an appendix to the report.

Discussion took place on the following feedback Members would wish included in responding to the questions set out at Appendix 1:-

- the open, responsive and comprehensive nature of Police Scotland's engagement with local scrutiny (question 1);
- the important role played by Community Policing, including participation in Locality Partnership, Neighbourhood Watch and Community Council meetings (question 1);
- the strong correlation between the local police plan and community priorities (question 2);
- the provision by Police Scotland of detailed reports to Committee and the responsiveness of its officers with regard to Members' questions (question 3);
- the commitment to communication, Community Policing and effective joint working as examples of elements of policing which are working well locally (question 4);
- the importance of ensuring the Police are fully equipped to undertake their duties with the best equipment available (question 5);
- the effective nature of partnership working arrangements locally, including MADART and joint initiatives between Police Scotland and Trading Standards (question 6);

- the value to greater local councillor involvement in the work of the SPA (question 7); and
- the importance which the Committee places on localism (question 10).

The Committee agreed that it be remitted to the Senior Manager (Legal Services), in consultation with the Chair, to prepare a final response to the questions set out at Appendix 1 to the report, based on the feedback provided by Members during discussion at the meeting.

The meeting ended at 3.50 p.m.