

**Police and Fire and Rescue Committee**  
**21 May 2019**

**IRVINE, 21 May 2019** - 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, John Glover, Ellen McMaster, Davina McTiernan and Jimmy Miller.

**In Attendance**

A. Craig, Senior Manager (Legal Services) and H. Clancy, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

**Also In Attendance**

Chief Superintendent M. Hargreaves and Chief Inspector B. Shaw (Police Scotland); Area Manager J. Scott and Area Manager I. McMeekin (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

**Chair**

Councillor Donald L. Reid in the Chair.

**Apologies**

Angela Stephen.

**1. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair advised on the forthcoming retirement of Area Manager James Scott. He referred to Area Manager Scott's long and varied career and took the opportunity to thank him for his contribution to the work of the Committee, wishing him well in his retirement.

**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. Minutes**

The accuracy of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 22 January 2019 was confirmed and signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

**4. Presentation**

The Committee received a presentation by Area Manager Iain McMeekin on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service 3-Year Strategic Plan.

The presentation highlighted the following: -

- SFRS values and the four outcomes in working together for a safer Scotland:
  - Outcome 1 – Our collaborative and targeted prevention and protection activities improve community safety and wellbeing and support sustainable economic growth;
  - Outcome 2 – Our flexible operational model provides an effective emergency response to meet diverse community risks across Scotland;
  - Outcome 3 – We are a great place to work where our people are safe, supported and empowered to deliver high performing innovative services;
  - Outcome 4 – We are fully accountable and maximise our public value by delivering a high quality, sustainable fire and rescue service for Scotland;
- the consultation exercise which is open from 9 May to 18 July 2019 with the Strategic Plan to be published in October 2019.

Noted.

## **5. Chair and Vice Chair Verbal Updates**

The Chair provided a verbal update on his attendance at a Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters presentation.

The Vice-Chair provided a verbal update on the 61 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service recruits who have recently graduated.

Noted.

### **6.1 Performance Report: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

Submitted report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) which provided an update on the progress against the North Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan and gave other key Fire and Rescue updates. A copy of the North Ayrshire Performance report from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 was set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

The report identified an 8% increase in activity levels across North Ayrshire from the corresponding activity period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 and a 6% increase in terms of the preceding three-year average. False alarms accounted for 52% of all activity within North Ayrshire, with fire related activity and special service activity accounting for 34% and 14%, respectively.

Review of performance against the six agreed performance indicators noted that three 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%, one indicator had reduced by less than 5% and one indicator remained unchanged.

On the 9 May 2019, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service launched a public consultation on its draft Strategic Plan for the period 2019 – 2022. The consultation is scheduled to last for 10 weeks and the consultation document was attached at Appendix 2 to the report.

The report also detailed that Chief Officer Martin Blunden has formally taken up his role within the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service following the retirement of Chief Officer Alisdair Hay. As a result of Deputy Chief Officer Iain Bushell's resignation and the forthcoming retirement of Assistant Chief Officer Lewis Ramsay, Principal Manager selection processes have taken place which resulted in Assistant Chief Officer David McGown being appointed to the Deputy Chief Officer role and Deputy Assistant Chief Officers Ross Haggart and John Dickie being appointed as Assistant Chief Officers.

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

- the increase in false alarm calls and how this can be reduced;
- fire safety audits and the high number being carried out;
- deliberate fire setting in the Stevenston area and a way forward in partnership with Police Scotland;
- the issue of youth disorder in this area of Stevenston; and
- the regular educational visits to schools which SFRS undertake to highlight dangers.

Noted.

## **6.2 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 2018 to 31 March 2019.

The report provided details of North Ayrshire's performance including a 2.3% rise in the total number of crimes. Contextual information was provided in respect of domestic abuse incidents, reporting of hate crime, an increase in violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour, serious organised crime, terrorism and domestic extremism, protecting people at risk from harm (including the increase in reporting of sexual crimes which is in line with other areas of Ayrshire and elsewhere in Scotland), road safety and road crime, public confidence and house breakings.

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

- partnership links to education in schools through the campus cops and the locality policing teams;
- a reduction in the number of drug supply offences detected but a marked increase in the number of person detected for possession of drugs;
- a rise in sexual crime figures due to historical sexual crime being reported; and
- the use of drones by Police Scotland.

Noted.

**7. Police Scotland Survey/Consultation: Shaping our direction and delivery 2019-2022 survey**

Submitted report by the Senior Manager, Legal Services on the response submitted to the Police Scotland Survey/Consultation. The response was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Committee agreed to homologate the response submitted to Police Scotland.

**8. Scottish Police Authority Annual Review of Policing Consultation**

Submitted report by the Senior Manager, Legal Services on the annual review and response to the consultation. The consultation questions were set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

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.

**9. Scottish Fire & Rescue Service – Consultation on 3 Year Strategic Plan**

Following the presentation on the 3-year strategic plan by SFRS Area Manager, Iain McMeekin, the Committee noted the consultation request and discussed issues arising from the presentation.

The Committee agreed that it be remitted to the Senior Manager, Legal Services in consultation with the Chair, to prepare a final response and submit to the SFRS by 9 July 2019. A copy of the final submission will be reported to the next meeting on 3 September 2019.

The meeting ended at 4.30 p.m.