

Police and Fire and Rescue Committee  
Tuesday, 06 February 2018

**Present**

Donald L. Reid, John Glover, Todd Ferguson and Davina McTiernan.

**In Attendance**

A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Services, and D. McCaw, Committee Services Officer (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.

**Chair**

Councillor Donald L. Reid in the Chair.

**Apologies**

Ellen McMaster and Angela Stephen.

**1 Chair's Remarks**

The Chair took the opportunity, on behalf of the Committee, to welcome Diane McCaw who will now provide support to the Police and Fire and Rescue Committee and to thank Melanie Anderson for the excellent support provided to date.

**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 21 November 2017 was confirmed and signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

**4 Chair and Vice-Chair Verbal Updates**

The Chair and Vice-Chair advised that they had no update for this meeting.

Noted.

**5 Performance Reports**

**5.1 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 December 2017 was set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

The report identified a 5% decrease in activity levels across North Ayrshire compared with the corresponding period in 2016, and a 7% increase in terms of the preceding three years average. False alarms accounted for 52% of all activity within North Ayrshire, with fire related activity and special service activity accounting for 37% and 11% 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 their respective three year average of more than 5% and one indicator currently unchanged in terms of activity over the rolling 3 year average.

Members were further advised that an open public consultation taking place next week with regard to the service transformation agenda and the visit by Members to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Training Centre and National HQ at Cambuslang will take place on 27 March 2018 and will combine with a visit to the new Police Scotland Crime Campus at Gartcosh.

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

- sources of call outs received by the fire service, especially in relation to road traffic collisions;
- that costs in association with emergency attendance at road traffic incidents cannot be claimed from insurance companies but that non-emergency services would levy a special service charge;
- the economic cost of unwanted fire alarm signals;
- the spring fire safety campaign focussing predominantly on the outdoors;
- work with partners in identifying fire safety risks;
- the spike in domestic fires in the early morning hours;
- retained duty personnel figures and the challenges faced in relation to recruitment targets;
- home visit requests through partner referrals;
- that specific North Ayrshire figures from the national recruitment drive are unavailable as applications are anonymous; and
- statistics within the report are year to date figures aligned to the period quarter and these will in future be based on the new electoral Wards.

Information of the employment fayre taking place in Ardeer of 9 March 2018 will be forwarded by the Clerk to Area Manager Scott and Chief Inspector Shaw.

Noted.

## **5.2 Police Scotland**

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

Chief Superintendent Main reported that North Ayrshire continued to perform well in terms of reduction in overall crime and continued decreases in specific areas such as violent and domestic crime and that local service delivery of policing in North Ayrshire is good. Contextual information was provided in respect of disorder and antisocial behaviour, serious organised crime, protecting people at risk from harm, housebreaking and road safety and for the purposes of comparison, contrasted current statistics in these areas with the number of incidents reported historically.

Among the other elements of the report which were highlighted, was the Police Scotland Youth Volunteers (PSYV) programme in Ayrshire designed for young people aged 13-18 years, the training of additional officers in Taser use and the extension of Armed Response Vehicle roles.

Chief Inspector Main further advised on the itinerary for the visit to the new Police Scotland Crime Campus at Gartcosh on 27 March 2018 and that future reports will be amended to make clear figures and trends for comparable periods and data in terms of user complaints and satisfaction.

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

- assaults on officers and the use of deterrents and officer safety training;
- support within the Court system around charges of police assault;
- public reporting of complaints in relation to the condition of the roads across North Ayrshire; and
- the effective use of the taser in mitigating risk and that data will be provided to the next meeting around the use of personal protective equipment.

Noted.

## **6 HM Inspector of Constabulary Scrutiny Plan 2018-19: Consultation**

Submitted letter from HM Inspector of Constabulary requesting feedback on proposals for HMICS scrutiny in 2018-19 and suggestions as to any high risk or emerging areas in policing which could be the subject of scrutiny.

Members considered the scrutiny proposals and identified areas around the following:-

- how the roll-out of tazer weapons to operational officers is managed, reviewed, evaluated and monitored, including some level of independent review, and ensuring that guidelines are robust;
- examining the relationships and structures between senior officers within Police Scotland in view of current issues highlighted in the public domain;
- a detailed and totally independent review of Police Scotland finance and funding;
- clarification and transparency around the separation of power between Scottish Government ministers and the SPA;
- an update on the previous scrutiny of Police call handling arrangements;
- scrutiny of how effectively localism has played out across the 32 Local Authority areas in terms of practical benefits; and
- traffic support by Police at marches and parades.

The Committee agreed to remit to the Head of Democratic Services to respond to the consultation on the HMICS Scrutiny Plan for 2018-19 based on the areas identified.

The meeting ended at 3.35 p.m.

**Police and Fire and Rescue Committee**  
**29 March 2018**

**Present**

Donald L. Reid, John Glover, Todd Ferguson, Ellen McMaster and Davina McTiernan.

**Also Present**

Robert Barr, Timothy Billings, Scott Davidson and Donald Reid.

**In Attendance**

A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Services, A. Craig, Senior Manager (Legal Services) and D. McCaw, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

**Also In Attendance**

Area Manager J. Scott and Group Manager K. Hankinson (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

**Chair**

Councillor Donald L. Reid in the Chair.

**Apologies**

Angela Stephen.

**1. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair took the opportunity to introduce Area Manager Jim Scott to the additional Members of the Council in attendance who had been invited to hear the presentation on the consultation proposals from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. He advised those Members that they would have an opportunity to address the Committee and ask questions but that any ultimate decision would be taken by Committee Members.

The Chair further thanked the Scottish Fire and Rescue representatives for the informative visit to their facilities which took place on Tuesday 27 March 2018. Members who had been present at the visit advised that the facilities are world class and commented on how the role of a firefighter had changed to a more prevention and protection role.

**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. Your Service - Your Voice: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Transformation Consultation**

Submitted report and received a presentation by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) which advised on the consultation proposals for the transformation of the

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. A copy of the full consultation document was set out in Appendix 1 to the report and the consultation period closes on 14 May 2018.

The consultation discusses a number of key areas encompassing the following topics:-

- current and anticipated operational demand;
- current and emerging risks;
- reducing public service demand through preventative activities;
- aligning SFRS resources to match risk and demand;
- national resilience footprint;
- utilising new firefighting technology to support public and firefighter safety;
- strengthening the role of Retained Duty Service colleagues; and
- broadening the firefighter role.

The consultation further sets out a vision for the future through a 4-year transformation programme to support a more effective and efficient operating model and to further enhance skills, capabilities and safety of firefighters to meet future challenges. Additional funding has been allocated to the Service for this year to support the transformation programme. It was emphasised that this was not a programme of cuts but centred on utilising capacity to maximum potential to meet the changing demand, improving the value provided as an emergency service and working in partnership across a number of fronts.

Members asked questions and were provided with information on the following:-

- the maximising of resources within each station in terms of the demand profile;
- that there was no intimation of any closure of facilities at present;
- that buildings coming to the end of their natural life would give an opportunity to realign the footprint of the services within communities;
- the assistance which can be provided to the Ambulance Service around medical emergencies such as Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest;
- the possibility of utilising motor bikes as first mobilisation in connection with unwanted fire alarm signals;
- the potential in rural and Island communities for the extension of the attendance response time;
- the current use of the electronic availability system and the future introduction of a singular technology approach across Scotland;
- the reassurance in terms of no cuts and that the public consultation requires to be open and transparent;
- the realignment of the business model generating financial savings;
- the specialist resources currently situated at Kilwinning Fire Station eg the forestry unit;
- the movement into other areas of demand and partnership working and support;
- the deployment of retained units within the Garnock Valley and the rapid response unit variable model;
- requirements for HGV or LGV licences; and
- any potential for utilising drone technology in the future and issues around this.

The Committee agreed to (a) note the terms of the verbal report; and (b) remit to the Head of Democratic Services/Senior Manager (Legal Services) to respond to the consultation on behalf of North Ayrshire Council, taking into account key points raised in discussion.

#### **4. Urgent Items: Willful Fire Raising**

Councillor McTiernan raised the issue of willful fires given the approach of the summer months and requested whether the Fire Service could work with Police Scotland on this matter. Area Manager Scott indicated that a primary focus of the Fire and Rescue Service was about diversionary opportunities for young people.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 11.20 a.m.