

MINUTE
of
CABINET
(POLICE AND FIRE)

Minute of Meeting held at 10.30 am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 6 June 2019.

Present:

Councillor Colin Merrick (Chair)
Councillor Paul O’Kane (Vice Chair)
Councillor Caroline Bamforth

Councillor Tony Buchanan
Councillor Barbara Grant
Councillor Alan Lafferty

Councillor Merrick, in the Chair

Attending:

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Caroline Innes, Deputy Chief Executive; Claire Reid, Community Safety Manager; and Paul O’Neil, Committee Services Officer.

Also Attending:

Chief Superintendent Brian McNulty; Superintendent Gary l’Anson and Chief Inspector John McQuilter, Police Scotland; and Local Senior Officer Graeme Binning; and Group Manager Colin Martin, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Apologies:

Councillors Danny Devlin and Stewart Miller.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

898. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

POLICE SCOTLAND – PERFORMANCE REPORT OVER THE FOURTH QUARTER OF FINANCIAL YEAR 2018/19

899. The Cabinet considered a report by the Divisional Commander, Police Scotland, providing details of the performance of the police over the fourth quarter of financial year 2018/19. The report also provided statistical information in relation to various categories of crimes and offences committed during the reported period together with comparative statistics for the corresponding period in 2017/18 and against the 5-year average.

Chief Superintendent McNulty began by highlighting the positive nature of the report which demonstrated the strong partnership working that existed within East Renfrewshire in the course of which he emphasised that East Renfrewshire was the safest place to live in Scotland. He advised that he had invited Superintendent I'Anson, Partnerships and Resourcing within the Greater Glasgow Division to attend the meeting to provide details about the proposed introduction of the Contact Assessment Model (CAM) which would become operational in police contact centres later in the year. Concluding his remarks, he advised that he was due to retire in the near future and that his successor would be Chief Superintendent Hazel Hendren who was currently the Divisional Commander for Argyll and West Dunbartonshire. At this stage, he invited Chief Inspector McQuilter to comment on the information contained in the performance report.

Chief Inspector McQuilter reiterated that the figures recorded in the report continued the positive trend previously reported throughout the year. He stated that performance was measured against the five local priorities contained in the East Renfrewshire Policing Plan 2017-20. These were noted as Homes Being Broken Into; Anti-Social Behaviour and Disorder; Violent Crime; Drug Dealing and Misuse; and Child Abuse including Child Sexual Exploitation.

Whilst noting that over the last year the number of victims of domestic house breaking had reduced by 25 compared to the previous year's figures and that there were 42 fewer victims against the 5 year average, Chief Inspector McQuilter provided details of the measures being taken by officers from the Safer Communities Department which had contributed to the overall reduction in this type of crime. He also reported that the number of incidents of anti-social behaviour had decreased by 21% with 565 fewer incidents being recorded compared to the previous year's figures. It was noted that Campus Officers continued to deliver talks to school pupils in partnership with colleagues from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to highlight the effects that anti-social behaviour had in the community and that these talks had now been rolled out to include parents' evenings throughout East Renfrewshire.

Commenting on the crimes of violence, Chief Inspector McQuilter reported that the number of victims of violent crime had also fallen over the past year with a 68% detection rate being recorded which was above the 2017 figure and the 5 year average. Whilst noting that there had been a slight increase in the number of common assaults, he reported that the number of domestic abuse incidents had also reduced. In this connection, he commented that officers had undergone training to deal with domestic abuse incidents in terms of the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018.

Chief Inspector McQuilter referred to the partnership work that had been undertaken with the Council's Licensing Section it being noted that in March 2019, a temporary suspension of a licensee who was failing to operate their premises in a fit and proper manner had been secured together with a shopkeeper being reported for selling alcohol to underage youths. Details on the number of seizures of a variety of controlled drugs in the final quarter of 2018 together with several arrests that had been made were outlined in the report. Furthermore, this proactivity had resulted in an increase in the number of people being detected for the supply of controlled drugs in the last year and a 24% increase against the 5 year average. It was noted that officers from the Divisional Pro-active Unit had searched an address in the Newton Mearns area and had recovered 2kg of cannabis and 17,000 etizolam tablets.

Turning to the problem of child abuse and child sexual exploitation, Chief Inspector McQuilter reported that in January 2019 local officers had attended at four premises in the Barrhead area with officers from the Home Office Immigration Enforcement which was part of a joint operation to identify people who might have been subject to exploitation or human trafficking. He also reported that in February 2019, Campus Officers had attended additional child protection training arranged by the Health and Social Care Partnership.

Concluding his remarks, Chief Inspector McQuilter commented that in terms of road safety one fatality had been recorded in the course of which he provided details of the work being undertaken by the police in partnership with the Council's Roads and Transportation Service to ensure that specific issues in East Renfrewshire could be addressed. It was further noted that officers from the local problem solving team had delivered inputs to local housing associations to raise awareness of counter terrorism and extremism together with details of how to report instances of concern about behaviour or other things that they had encountered when dealing with the public.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Chief Superintendent McNulty and Chief Inspector McQuilter provided clarification on a range of operational issues within East Renfrewshire and on the crime statistics recorded in the report..

At this stage, Chief Superintendent McNulty invited Superintendent l'Anson to comment on the proposed introduction of the Contact Assessment Model (CAM) to the contact centres.

Superintendent l'Anson provided a brief overview of how the new system would operate highlighting that it would improve the management of calls being made to the police as call handlers would be able to assess the risk to the caller, provide the necessary advice and ensure that appropriate action was taken by officers. It was noted that the new approach would be introduced in phases starting in Lanarkshire and Dumfries and Galloway during the course of the summer before a proposed roll out across Scotland.

The Cabinet:-

- (a) noted the position regarding the introduction of the Contact Assessment Model; and
- (b) otherwise noted the terms of the report.

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (SFRS) PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR FOURTH QUARTER OF 2018/19

The Cabinet considered a report by the Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), providing details of the performance of the SFRS in East Renfrewshire during the fourth quarter of 2018/19. An analysis of the incidents in each of the Council's five wards during the reported period was outlined in the report.

The Local Senior Officer referred to the positive results being reported which demonstrated that East Renfrewshire was a safe place to live. He stated that as previously reported a senior officer was now dedicated to East Renfrewshire area and to strengthen this arrangement he had appointed a local area liaison officer to work in partnership with the local area liaison officer appointed by the police. He also indicated that he was looking to develop the relationship between SFRS and the Scottish Ambulance Service in the course of which he advised that a full-time paramedic service would now operate from Clarkston fire station. He also commented on the arrangements to install defibrillators in the Levern Valley, one of which had been installed at Barrhead fire station.

Concluding his remarks, he stated that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Plan 2019/22 was the subject of a 10 week public consultation which would end on 18 July 2019. A letter providing details about the consultation on the Strategic Plan would be circulated to the Cabinet at the end of the meeting. At this stage, he invited Area Manager Martin to comment further on the terms of the performance report.

Area Manager Martin began by reinforcing the message that East Renfrewshire was a safe place to live highlighting the low levels activity recorded in the last quarter. He referred to the summary of the activity in the report in the course of which it was noted that there had been a 20% reduction recorded in the number of fires and a 24% reduction in the number of fire and non-fire casualties. However, the number of false alarm signals had increased by 12% over the reported period.

Whilst noting that accidental dwelling fires had decreased by a third compared to the same period the previous year, Area Manager Martin stated that this represented an increase on the 3-year average due to low activity being recorded in the preceding two years. It was noted that 17 accidental dwelling fires had been recorded in 2018/19 although in 60% of these incidents no assistance was required from SFRS. It was further noted that there had been no fatalities recorded although there were 5 casualties associated with 3 accidental dwelling fires, details of which were outlined in the report.

Area Manager Martin stated that it was pleasing to note that no water rescue had been required during the reported period and that there were only 8 non-fire casualties recorded during the course of 2018/19. The most serious of these had occurred from a fall in the home environment resulting in a leg fracture. He highlighted that to address this type of event SFRS were working in partnership with East Renfrewshire Falls Team to prevent individuals sustaining similar injuries in the future. He also indicated that there had been a slight increase in deliberate fire setting although a 10% reduction recorded against the 3-year average. It was noted that SFRS continued to work in partnership with Police Scotland in delivering safety messages to school aged children. It was noted that unwanted fire alarm signals had shown a slight increase in activity in this area with residential care facilities replacing educational establishments as the main reporters.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Local Senior Officer Binning and Area Manager Martin provided clarification on a range of operational issues within East Renfrewshire.

The Cabinet noted the position.

CHAIR