

MINUTE
of
CABINET
(POLICE AND FIRE)

Minute of Meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 20 September 2018.

Present:

Councillor Colm Merrick (Chair)
Councillor Caroline Bamforth
Councillor Barbara Grant

Councillor Alan Lafferty
Councillor Stewart Miller

Councillor Merrick in the Chair

Attending:

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Caroline Innes, Deputy Chief Executive; Jim Sneddon, Head of Democratic and Partnership Services; Murray Husband, Head of ICT and Digital Enablement; Claire Reid, Community Safety Manager; and Paul O'Neil, Committee Services Officer.

Also Attending:

Chief Superintendent Brian McNulty 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 Tony Buchanan (Leader); and Paul O'Kane (Vice Chair).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

604. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

POLICE SCOTLAND – PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF FINANCIAL YEAR 2018/19

605. The Cabinet considered a report by the Divisional Commander, Police Scotland providing details of the performance of the police in East Renfrewshire over the first quarter of the financial year 2018/19. The report also provided statistical information on various categories of crimes and offences committed during the reported period.

Chief Superintendent McNulty began by advising that the Greater Glasgow Division of Police Scotland (i.e. 'G' Division) was the subject of an inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS). He indicated that Mr Stephen Tidy, a representative of the inspectorate was present to observe the meeting's proceedings.

Whilst commenting on the establishment of East Renfrewshire Police Scotland Youth Volunteers; and the work of campus officers which formed an integral part of how the local police delivered the objectives of the Local Policing Plan, Chief Superintendent McNulty advised that the Constable Jacqueline Petrie, local authority liaison officer, was currently working in partnership with 'I am Me' and the Council to implement the "Keep Safe Premises" initiative throughout East Renfrewshire. The initiative worked with local businesses to create safe places for vulnerable individuals who might need support when they were out in their community.

Concluding his remarks, Chief Superintendent McNulty reported that Mr Iain Livingstone QPM had been appointed as the new Chief Constable of Police Scotland; and Mr Will Kerr had been appointed as Deputy Chief Constable – Local Policing, and at a local level Inspector Bryan McGeogh had been appointed as the new Deputy Area Commander. At this stage, he invited Chief Inspector McQuilter to provide further details on the performance report.

Whilst summarising the performance of the police over the reported period by reference to each of the local and national policing priorities, Chief Inspector McQuilter highlighted those priorities which had seen a reduction in the number of incidents and improvements in detection rates when compared to the statistics reported for the corresponding period the previous year. In particular, house breaking (including attempts) had fallen from 31 in the corresponding period in 2017 to 23 in the current year with detection rates improving from 12.9% in 2017 to 21.7% in 2018. The figures reported highlighted that residents in East Renfrewshire had clearly listened to the advice given to them by the police to keep their homes safe and secure and to report any suspicious activity.

Chief Inspector McQuilter reported on activities carried out to tackle anti-social behaviour and disorder in the course of which he indicated that during the course of May, the police had worked alongside Licensing Standards Officers to tackle the issue of alcohol being sold to juveniles under the age of 18. He reported a significant decrease of 20% in complaints of disorder being made compared to the figure recorded in the corresponding period in 2017 (i.e. from 822 to 650). He also outlined that the police continued to work in partnership with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, particularly in relation to the thefts and subsequent setting on fire of wheelie bins in the Netherlee area. He advised that campus officers and fire officers had been involved in giving presentations to secondary school pupils about the dangers and adverse impact that anti-social behaviour and wilful setting of fires had on local communities.

Whilst noting that there had been a significant increase in the number of serious assaults when compared to the corresponding period in 2017, Chief Inspector McQuilter stated that there did not appear to be a pattern developing for this type of assault. Furthermore, the number of crimes of domestic violence had reduced, although a similar reduction had been recorded in the detection rates. Details of the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse in Scotland together with the ways in which victims could get support were outlined in the report. He also reported on the figures for drug dealing and misuse although it was highlighted that figures represented those for the whole of the Greater Glasgow Division. It was noted that there had been an increase in the number of detections compared to the corresponding period previous year.

Chief Inspector McQuilter explained that in terms of child abuse and child sexual exploitation, campus officers were now trained in Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) and were now able to train teachers and other professionals to deliver CEOP safety to their classes. He indicated that the number of sexual crimes in 2018 had increased when compared to the corresponding period in 2017 and that the detection rates had also decreased although these figures related to historic crimes.

Concluding his remarks, Chief Inspector McQuilter made reference to the work of the Roads Policing who had worked in partnership with campus officers to promote safer driving outside local schools. Furthermore, Police Scotland Safer Communities Department had held a Citizen Aid conference for 250 people drawn from businesses and organisations on 30 May 2018.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Chief Superintendent McNulty and Chief Inspector McQuilter responded to a number of questions and provided clarification on a range of operational issues within East Renfrewshire.

During discussion, it was noted that there was now a dedicated Public Protection Unit based at Govan Police Station to investigate historic sex crimes; that three males had now been reported to the Procurator Fiscal as a result of the serious assaults that had taken place at Overlee Park, Clarkston during the summer; that there were no proposals to introduce political scrutiny at a regional level similar to the roles performed by the former Joint Police Boards as this role was now being performed by the Scottish Police Authority. Concluding the discussion, it was noted that whilst consideration had been given to the establishment of a joint campus between the Council and Police Scotland in East Renfrewshire there were no firm proposals at this time.

The Cabinet noted the terms of the report.

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2018/19

606. The Cabinet considered a report by the Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Services (SFRS), providing details of SFRS in East Renfrewshire during the first 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.

Local Senior Officer Binning began by referring to the visit by Members of the Cabinet (Police and Fire) to the operational centre in Johnstone in the course of which he commented on the changes he had made to the governance arrangements of the three local authority areas of East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire which he had responsibility for. He referred to the six areas for demand reduction which were detailed in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for East Renfrewshire. These were noted as Accidental Dwelling Fires; Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties; Unintentional Harm and Injury; Deliberate Fire Setting; Non- Domestic Fire Safety; and Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals. Concluding his remarks, he invited Group Manager Martin to provide further details about the performance of the SFRS over the reported period.

Group Manager Martin began by referring to the new format of the report in the course of which he made reference to the six areas for demand reduction. He reported that the number of incidents had been broken down by reference to each of the Council's five wards. In terms of performance, reductions had been recorded in the number of primary and secondary fires; accidental dwelling fire casualties; deliberate fire setting; and non-domestic fires. Furthermore, whilst there had been a slight decrease in unwanted fire alarm signals

when compared to the previous year, it was noted that educational establishments accounted for one third of all such incidents with most incidents occurring during Monday to Friday when the premises were occupied. Concluding his remarks, he provided further details about each of the areas.

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

During discussion, it was noted that 65% of the deliberate fires recorded had occurred in the Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor Ward and these types of fires were normally caused by youths. Secondary fires included such things as grass and scrubland and that it was pleasing to note that there had been no secondary fires recorded in the report despite the fact that East Renfrewshire covered a large rural area.

Whilst acknowledging that the number of fires being attended by SFRS had reduced, Local Senior Officer Binning acknowledged that there had been a spate of large scale fires which had been widely reported in the media. He emphasised that when the service was asked to attend such fires there was a robust risk based approach in place to monitor the movement of assets to ensure that appliances were always available to respond to fires in other areas. It was also noted that the SFRS continued with its engagement activities with Fire Safety Officers, local fire stations and Head Masters of local schools and that as noted in the report only 75 fires had been recorded in the first quarter of 2108/19 which was very low.

The Cabinet noted the terms of the report.

VALEDICTORY – RETIREMENT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC AND PARTNERSHIP SERVICES

607. Councillor Merrick referred to the forthcoming retirement of Mr Jim Sneddon, Head of Democratic and Partnership Services, who was retiring after 40 years of local government service, 20 of which was with the Council.

On behalf of the Council, Councillor Merrick wished Mr Sneddon a long and happy retirement and presented him with a commemorative gift from the Council.

Mr Sneddon replied in suitable terms.

CHAIR