

MINUTE
of
CABINET
(POLICE AND FIRE)

Minute of Meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 22 November 2018.

Present:

Councillor Colm Merrick (Chair)	Councillor Barbara Grant
Councillor Paul O’Kane (Vice Chair)	Councillor Alan Lafferty
Councillor Caroline Bamforth	Councillor Stewart Miller

Councillor Merrick in the Chair

Attending:

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Caroline Innes, Deputy Chief Executive; Murray Husband, Head of ICT and Digital Enablement; Claire Reid, Community Safety Manager; Jennifer Graham, Committee Services Officer; and Liona Allison, Assistant Committee Services Officer.

Also Attending:

Chief Superintendent Brian McNulty and Chief Inspector John McQuilter, Police Scotland; and Local Senior Officer Graeme Binning, and Station Manager David Fothergill, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Apology:

Councillor Tony Buchanan (Leader).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

691. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

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

692. The Cabinet considered a report by the Divisional Commander, Police Scotland providing details of the performance of the police in East Renfrewshire over the second 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 advised that this was an excellent report in terms of the figures and narrative provided, which now included comparison data for the previous five years, where available. He referred to ongoing partnership working; significant reductions in housebreaking, violent crime and anti-social behaviour; and strong detection rates. He referred to the format of Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's performance report, which would be considered later in the meeting, and requested members' views on whether or not they would wish Police Scotland to move to a similar reporting format in future. At this stage, he invited Chief Inspector McQuilter to provide further details about the information contained in 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 and, where possible, over a 5 year average. In particular, housebreaking (including attempts) had fallen from 49 in the corresponding period in 2017 to 44 in the current year with detection rates improving from 22.4% in 2017 to 13.6% in 2018 with both figures showing considerable improvement over the preceding five years. He advised that the improved figures were due to increased police visibility within communities and better home security.

Chief Inspector McQuilter reported that anti-social behaviour and disorder continued to be a community priority and reported a significant decrease of 19.9% in complaints of disorder when compared to the corresponding period in 2017 (i.e. from 1560 to 1250). He also advised that Police Scotland continued to work in partnership with Community Safety, Housing, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and campus officers to consider the adverse impact that anti-social behaviour had on local communities and ways to tackle this, and officers were regularly deployed to known areas of concern.

Whilst noting that overall the number of crimes of violence had reduced since the corresponding period in 2017, due to a reduction in common assaults and robbery, the number of serious assaults had increased. However, detection rates remained high and prevention would continue to be a priority. Reference was made to an incident at Overlee Park in August 2018 which had led to two males being arrested and reported to the Procurator Fiscal. He reported that the number of crimes of domestic violence had reduced, and a significant number of police officers were attending enhanced training on domestic abuse to provide officers with more guidance on dealing with victims. He also referred to a 47% increase in the number of people detected for the supply of controlled drugs when compared to the same period in 2017 an operation to target local dealers being a factor.

Chief Inspector McQuilter explained that in terms of child abuse and child sexual exploitation, campus officers continued to provide information and guidance within schools. He reported that the number of sexual crimes in 2018 had increased when compared to the corresponding period in 2017 as a result of victims having more confidence to come forward and report ongoing and historic crimes.

Chief Inspector McQuilter made reference to the work of the Roads Policing Unit who had worked in partnership with campus officers to promote safer driving outside local schools, and reported that there had been no roads related fatalities within East Renfrewshire this year. Concluding his remarks, he also referred to ongoing priorities in relation to counter terrorism and domestic extremism, including the Prevent Scheme which was being led by East Renfrewshire Council, and reported that an ongoing satisfaction survey had highlighted that most people were pleased with the service they received from Police Scotland.

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 two people had been apprehended in connection with bin fires in Netherlee; the public would continue to be encouraged to report anti-social behaviour within their community at the earliest opportunity to allow local police to respond quickly; local problem solving teams would introduce measures to alleviate problems arising from repeat calls within communities; the role of campus officers would continually evolve and good practice would be shared between different local authority areas; and, in recognition of the change to a national force, all new police vehicles would receive branding in both English and Gaelic, in recognition of the rising number of Gaelic speakers in Scotland. Concluding the discussion, Chief Inspector McQuilter advised that he would contact appropriate colleagues within the Divisional Roads Policing Unit regarding concerns raised about the excessive speed of large vehicles on the M77, particularly near Junction 5, and the possible introduction of a permanent speed camera in Eaglesham.

The Cabinet noted the terms of the report.

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

693. 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 second 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 recent governance restructure within the Fire and Rescue Service as a result of which he had invited David Fothergill, Station Manager for Barrhead and Clarkston, to the meeting. Local Senior Officer Binning added that the recent bonfire night had been successful with few incidents and no attacks on fire crews in attendance, partly due to an improved partnership response with Police Scotland. He also referred to a new partnership which had been established with the Scottish Ambulance Service allowing an ambulance unit to be based at Clarkston Fire Station, and which may lead to a paramedic motorcyclist being based at Barrhead Fire Station in future. He added that discussions were ongoing to base a Community Firefighter within East Renfrewshire Council HQ one day a week to allow them to focus on East Renfrewshire issues and more easily liaise with the Police Scotland Community Support Officer and Council officers. He added that there were clear links between the reductions reported in the SFRS and Police Scotland reports which reflected the strong local partnerships in place. Concluding his remarks, he invited Station Manager Fothergill to provide further details about the performance of the SFRS over the reported period.

Station Manager Fothergill reported on a summary of the planned priorities and activity for the quarter advising that, in terms of performance, reductions had been recorded in the number of primary and secondary fires; special services; false alarms; and total number of incidents. However, it was highlighted that there had been an increase in the number of fire & non-fire casualties. He advised that cooking continued to be the most common source of accidental fires in houses but links with the telecare service had led to earlier warning and intervention leading to a reduction in casualties and severity of damage. Station Manager Fothergill referred to work which was ongoing in partnership with Police Scotland within schools to target areas of concern including a campaign during the summer to highlight safety in and around water. He advised that SFRS would continue to liaise with local

schools to raise areas of concern and a future topic would be deliberate fire setting. Concluding his remarks, he provided further details about each of the areas referred to within the report.

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

During discussion, it was noted that, because the numbers of incidents being recorded in this area were relatively low, a small change could lead to a significant percentage increase or decrease from previous reports. Additional narrative was therefore provided within the reports for context.

The Chief Executive reported that she and Councillor Buchanan, had recently met with Alasdair Hay, Chief Fire Officer, during which he had highlighted an increased use of evidence and data within SFRS to inform future service delivery. She added that this had been an extremely positive meeting in the course of which Chief Fire Officer Hay had advised that he would retire from SFRS at the end of March 2019. No announcement of a replacement had yet been made. The Cabinet (Police and Fire) wished to record their thanks to Chief Fire Officer Hay for steering SFRS forward in recent years and wished him well for the future.

The Cabinet noted the terms of the report.

CHAIR