

MINUTE
of
CABINET
(POLICE AND FIRE)

Minute of Meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 23 November 2017.

Present:

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

Councillor Merrick in the Chair

Attending:

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Caroline Innes, Deputy Chief Executive; Jim Sneddon, Head of Democratic and Partnership Services; and Paul O’Neil, Committee Services Officer.

Also Attending:

Chief Superintendent Brian McNulty and Chief Inspector Angela Carty, Police Scotland; and Local Senior Officer David Proctor, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

234. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

POLICE SCOTLAND – PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF FINANCIAL YEAR 2017/18

235. 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 2017/18. A statistical report giving a breakdown of various categories of crimes and offences committed during the reported period was appended to the report.

Chief Superintendent McNulty advised that as the new East Renfrewshire Local Policing Plan 2017/20 had now been approved at the meeting of the Council on 25 October 2017 this would be the last update of reporting against the priorities in the East Renfrewshire Local Policing Plan 2014/17. He indicated that the next performance report would report on the local policing priorities identified in the new plan. At this stage, he invited Chief Inspector Carty to provide further details about the information contained in the performance report.

Chief Inspector Carty summarised the performance of the police during the second quarter of 2017/18 by reference to the local policing priorities. She began by outlining the measures the police were taking to tackle anti-social behaviour in East Renfrewshire including the introduction of an action plan under the name of 'Operation Scythe'. Whilst the enforcement action was designed to reduce the number of calls the police received and help detect offenders, she emphasised that it was also part of an ongoing approach to educate younger people. It was noted that campus officers continued engagement activities in schools by giving presentations to young people about the effects anti-social behaviour had on local communities.

Whilst noting that the number of robberies recorded in the report had increased from 3 in the corresponding period in 2016/17 to 12 in the current reporting period, and having noted that the detection rate for this type of crime was good at 83.3%, Chief Inspector Carty reported that the number of common assaults recorded had increased compared to the corresponding period in 2016/17, and that the detection for this type of crime had also increased.

Furthermore, it was noted that the number of domestic abuse crimes had reduced although the proportion of offenders detected had increased. Details of the ongoing work of the Child Abuse Investigation Unit (CAIU) were outlined in the course of which Chief Inspector Carty advised that the number of reported sexual crimes remained consistent at 45 compared to 2016/17. In response to concerns expressed by local communities about the information that children and young people were being exposed to on the internet, she advised that campus officers were providing guidance and advice on internet safety and cyber bullying to secondary school pupils.

Chief Inspector Carty reported that the number of housebreakings recorded had reduced compared to the corresponding period last year, although the number of people reported to the Procurator Fiscal for this type of crime had increased. She explained that the reduction in the number of house breakings recorded was in line with the Scottish Crime Recording Standards (i.e. where the security of a building had been overcome). She emphasised that these figures had to be viewed against the increasing numbers of sneak-in thefts where houses had not been secured and perpetrators were able to get into houses through unlocked doors. To address this issue the police had been promoting crime prevention messages to encourage residents to keep themselves and their property safe. Details of the the number of road safety incidents which showed that the number of people seriously injured in road traffic incidents were also outlined in the course of which she highlighted vehicles parking in and around schools both in the mornings and afternoons continued to be a problem and work was ongoing to tackle this.

Concluding her remarks, Chief Inspector Carty commented on the police "Your View Counts" survey which had been refreshed and relaunched in August 2017 changing the way in which police carried out public consultation. It was noted that the results of the previous survey had been published and had formed the foundations in the preparation of the 2017/20 Policing Plan. Details of public confidence in the police and the actions being taken to tackle serious and organised crime were also outlined.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Chief Superintendent McNulty and Chief Inspector Carty responded to a number of questions and provided clarification on a range of operational issues within East Renfrewshire. In particular, it was noted that those responsible for the anti-social behaviour within East Renfrewshire did not necessarily live in the area as it was known that youths were travelling into East Renfrewshire from the Glasgow area. Chief Inspector Carty also confirmed that a number of youths had been apprehended associated with the vandalism that had been

carried out in the Clarkston area. In response to concerns expressed regarding the problems of inconsiderate parking in and around schools, officers were being tasked to visit one school a day to speak to parents with a view to educating them on the problems this was causing.

Chief Superintendent McNulty confirmed that Deputy Chief Constable Ian Livingstone was in charge of Police Scotland in the absence of the Chief Constable and emphasised that there had been no adverse impact on day to day operational activities. He also provided clarification on how the criminal justice system operated once an individual was charged by the police for a crime/offence. In this regard, he explained that the police had regular meetings with the Procurator Fiscal service at which the police would provide feedback it had received from local residents about the strength of feelings residents had towards certain types of crimes that had been committed such as housebreakings.

The Cabinet noted the terms of the report.

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2017/18

236. 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 second quarter of 2017/18. An analysis of the incidents in each of the Council's former six wards during the reported period was appended to the report.

Local Senior Officer Proctor reported that performance of the service was measured against the key performance indicators as detailed in the East Renfrewshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-17. These were noted as Accidental Dwelling Fires; All Non-Fatal Fire Casualties; Deliberate Fire Raising; Fires in Non-Domestic buildings; Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals; and Road Traffic Collisions. He summarised the performance by comparing each of the indicators against the performance achieved in the corresponding period in 2016.

Whilst noting that the number of incidents accidental dwelling fires had increased by 1 from 13 to 14, Local Senior Officer Proctor advised that the total number of all non-fatal fire casualties recorded had decreased from 1 to zero although the total number of incidents involving deliberate fire raising had increased from 34 to 51. He also indicated that the total number of fires in non-domestic buildings had remained the same at 2 although the total number of unwanted fire alarm signal incidents had increased from 89 to 92.

Furthermore, the total number of road traffic collision incidents attended by SFRS which resulted in non-fatal casualties had increased from 5 to 10; that the number of recorded casualties had increased from no casualties in the corresponding period in 2016/17 to 10 in the current reported period; and on a positive note there were no fatalities within the reported period.

Local Senior Officer Proctor also reported on a range of partnership and community engagement activities undertaken by SFRS during the course of the second quarter of 2017/18. These included attendance at the weekly meetings of the Greater Results in Partnership (GRIP) and providing support to the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) in relation to fire safety awareness training. Other activities included supporting the work of the SFRS Autumn Thematic Action Plan which included giving presentations and working with HSCP partners to develop a falls prevention strategy. The Community Action Team and Retired Employee Association (REA) volunteers had also conducted 19 Home Fire Safety Visits for East Renfrewshire Telecare.

Whilst noting that a total of 393 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) had been carried out in East Renfrewshire during the second quarter of 2017/18, 27 of which were as a result of high risk referrals from East Renfrewshire Community Planning partners and 85 were as a result of Post Domestic Incident Responses (PDIR), Local Senior Officer Proctor explained that the SFRS conducted a PDIR at all domestic dwelling incidents (including fire alarm actuations and special services). He advised that as a result of these visits fire safety advice and support had been provided and where required SFRS provided and fitted 10 year battery powered smoke detectors.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Local Senior Officer Proctor responded to and provided clarification on a number of questions in relation to operational issues in East Renfrewshire. In particular, he explained that whilst no fire crews in East Renfrewshire were the subject of acts of violence on 'bonfire' night on 5 November 2017, one had been recorded in the Renfrewshire area. In response to concerns by local residents about spent fireworks landing on their properties, he advised that the SFRS did offer advice to the public regarding the safe discharge of fireworks. Whilst acknowledging that staffing resources had reduced since the creation of the SFRS, he emphasised this had been part of a streamlining exercise given that staff from the 8 former fire brigades were brought into one organisation and had been achieved through natural wastage.

The Cabinet noted the terms of the report.

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN FOR EAST RENFREWSHIRE 2017

237. Local Senior Officer Proctor stated that as reported at the last meeting on 21 September, the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for East Renfrewshire 2017 was currently the subject of a 12 week consultation exercise which would end on 4 December 2017. He indicated that at the end of the consultation period and in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Administration, it was proposed that the Plan be submitted to the meeting of the Council on 13 December for approval.

The Cabinet agreed that the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for East Renfrewshire 2017 be submitted to the meeting of the Council on 13 December for approval.

VALEDICTORY – LOCAL SENIOR OFFICER DAVID PROCTOR

238. Councillor Merrick referred to the forthcoming retirement of Local Senior Officer Proctor and paid tribute to the excellent working relationship the Council had enjoyed with him as Local Senior Officer.

Local Senior Officer Proctor replied in similar terms in the course of which he advised that his successor would be Group Manager Graeme Binning who was currently in charge of Prevention and Protection within the South Lanarkshire LSO Area.