

**MINUTE**  
**of**  
**CABINET**  
**(POLICE AND FIRE)**

**Minute of virtual meeting held at 10.00am on 11 February 2021.**

**Present:**

Councillor Colm 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; Murray Husband, Head of Digital and Community Safety; Jennifer Graham, Committee Services Officer; and Liona Allison, Assistant Committee Services Officer.

**Also Attending:**

Superintendent Joe McKerns (substitute for Chief Superintendent Mark Sutherland), and Chief Inspector Bryan McGeogh, Police Scotland; and Area Commander James McNeill, and Station Commander Scott Macmillan, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

**Apology:**

Chief Superintendent Mark Sutherland.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**1528.** There were no declarations of interest intimated.

**POLICE SCOTLAND – PERFORMANCE REPORT OVER THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2020/21**

**1529.** The Cabinet considered a report by the Divisional Commander, Police Scotland, providing details of the performance of the police over the third quarter of 2020/21. 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 2019/20.

Chief Inspector McGeogh reported on the performance of the police against the five local policing priorities contained in the East Renfrewshire Policing Plan 2020-23. He began by highlighting that in terms of drug dealing and seizures the police had made several arrests and seized a quantity of controlled drugs with the number of detections having decreased slightly from 20 to 19 when compared to the corresponding period the previous year. He also reported that, compared to the previous year, crimes of violence had reduced from 368 to 318 but serious assaults had increased slightly from 20 to 21. It was further highlighted that there had been a reduction in the number of domestic abuse crimes from 238 to 233 when compared to the corresponding period for the previous year and the number of domestic incidents attended by the police had also reduced from 400 to 383. In addition, the number of reported sexual crimes, acquisitive crimes and crimes of vandalism had all seen a reduction compared to the previous year. He further reported that the police recorded an increase of 967 calls from the public in relation to anti-social behaviour over the reported period, which included a number of firework calls in the run up to and including Bonfire Night (5 November), and Police Scotland continued to work closely with their colleagues from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service during that time.

Concluding his remarks, Chief Inspector McGeogh reported that following in depth investigations of two separate violent crime incidents in Giffnock and Barrhead, two males had been charged with offences. He added that community engagement continued to highlight road safety as a priority and a number of people had been reported for road traffic offences. The report also referred to introduction of the "Herbert Protocol" which had recently been rolled out in the Greater Glasgow Division encouraging family members/carers of people diagnosed with dementia to complete and store an information pack containing vital information for the Police in the event that their family member went missing.

Superintendent McKerns referred to the Take 5 for Fraud initiative, which used social media to raise awareness of online and telephone fraud, adding that the Serious Crime Directorate were investigating this issue nationally. He provided further information relating to breaches of the latest lockdown restrictions, advising that the number of fixed penalty notices issued had increased recently and more detailed statistics would be provided in due course.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Superintendent McKerns and Chief Inspector McGeogh responded to a number of questions and provided clarification on a range of operational issues within East Renfrewshire and the crime statistics recorded in the report.

The Cabinet noted the terms of the report.

### **SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (SFRS) PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2020/21**

**1530.** The Cabinet considered a report by the Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), providing details of the performance of SFRS in East Renfrewshire during the third quarter of 2020/21. An analysis of the incidents identified in the six areas for demand reduction that had taken place in each of the Council's five wards during the reported period was outlined in the report.

Area Commander McNeill commented briefly on the challenges the service had faced prior to Bonfire Night (5 November) and how important partnership working had been during that period. He also advised that the Strategic Plan for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service would be reviewed following the Scottish Government Elections and a draft Interim Local Plan would be submitted to the Cabinet in due course.

Referring to the report he provided an overview of the activity during the reported period. He highlighted that during the course of quarter 3 there had been 9 accidental dwelling fires with 1 casualty arising from these fires. In terms of unintentional harm and injury 2 non-fire casualties had been recorded. He reported that there had been 45 incidents of deliberate fire setting and 3 non-domestic fires. Reporting that there had been 73 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals during the quarter, Area Commander McNeil highlighted that this was a significant reduction on the 3 year average.

Station Commander Macmillan reported on the "Take 5" initiative which had been launched in East Renfrewshire on 1 February to help reduce the number of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) in the area. The project was launched in partnership with colleagues in East Renfrewshire Council to investigate the common causes of UFAS incidents and included educational initiatives and posters highlighting five focus areas these being; testing of fire alarms; aerosol use; knowledge of responsibility for fire safety; equipment use; and thinking about actions. The initiative would initially target all Council and educational premises and crews in attendance at UFAS incidents would take time to engage with and educate staff about the Take 5 initiative. He advised that a more formal launch would take place when the current restrictions had been lifted and the initiative would be reviewed and rolled out to additional premises in due course.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Area Commander McNeill provided clarification on a range of operational issues within East Renfrewshire and the statistics recorded in the report.

The Cabinet noted the terms of the report.

#### **VALEDICTORY – CHIEF INSPECTOR BRYAN McGEOGH**

**1531.** Councillor Merrick reported that Chief Inspector Bryan McGeogh would be leaving East Renfrewshire to take on a new role elsewhere. He praised the excellent working relationship the Council had enjoyed with him as Local Commander and on behalf of the Council wished him well for the future.

Chief Inspector McGeogh replied in suitable terms.

CHAIR

