

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

**Minute of Meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 26 November 2015.**

**Present:**

Councillor Mary Montague (Chair)  
Councillor Barbara Grant  
Councillor Elaine Green

Councillor Alan Lafferty  
Councillor Stewart Miller

Councillor Montague 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 Andy Bates and Chief Inspector Angela Carty, Police Scotland; and Local Senior Officer, Martin Gordon, and Group Manager, Stephen Wright, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

**Apologies:**

Councillors Jim Fletcher (Leader); Tony Buchanan (Deputy Leader); Danny Devlin; Ian McAlpine; and Vincent Waters.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**1813.** There were no declarations of interest intimated.

**SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE – PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2015/16**

**1814.** 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 second quarter of 2015/16. An analysis of the incidents in each of the Council's six wards during the reported period was appended to the report.

Local Senior Officer Gordon began by highlighting that performance over the last quarter had been positive with no fire fatalities and very few fire casualties in the course of which he invited Group Manager Wright to provide further details about the performance of SRFS during the course of the second quarter.

Group Manager Wright reiterated that there were no fire fatalities to report and only 3 fire casualties although the individuals concerned were treated only as a precautionary measure. He highlighted that there had been a slight increase in accidental dwelling fires from 19 in the previous quarter to 23 in the second quarter. Other notable performance statistics included 46 deliberate fires representing a 20% reduction when compared to the previous quarter; no deliberate vehicle fires and refuse fires to report; and only 6 non-domestic properties fires again representing a 40% reduction in the number reported in the previous quarter. Similarly, there had been a reduction in the number of requests for special services with only 27 being reported and this included a notable reduction in the number of road traffic collisions. However, it was noted that the total number of false alarms attended had increased slightly to 139. This was due mainly to calls of good intent, or equipment failure and would remain a key area of improvement for SRFS in the coming months.

Details of the community engagement activities undertaken by SRFS during the reported period were also outlined in the course of which, Group Manager Wright indicated that a total of 406 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) had been carried out, of which 155 were deemed to involve individuals at high risk. As a result a referral process to Social Work services was now in place. He also emphasised that as previously reported all sheltered housing complexes in East Renfrewshire which incorporate 552 individual flatted properties remained a focus for the service with all residences receiving a visit. Other activities included Telecare installations; partnership work with local Housing Associations with a view to reducing the number of unwanted fire alarm signals and equipment faults, particularly in sheltered housing units, and the provision of a HFSV to vulnerable clients in independent living accommodation; and similar partnership working with East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership Drugs and Alcohol Partnership.

Concluding his remarks, Group Manager Wright reported that SRFS Community Action Team had been working closely with the Council's Youth Services and were now delivering Fire Reach courses to young people at risk of offending who would benefit greatly by participating in one of the courses. Furthermore, the team had also visited Williamwood High School to deliver road safety presentations and continued to be involved in local engagement with a mixture of young people, community groups and members of the public as part of their demand reduction programme.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Local Senior Officer Gordon and Group Manager Wright provided clarification on a number of operational issues within East Renfrewshire in the course of which the Cabinet welcomed the introduction of the referral system to social services for those individuals considered to fall into the high risk category of those likely to be involved in a dwelling fire, the ongoing partnership work with the Council's Youth Services and the continued success of the Fire Reach courses.

The Cabinet noted the terms of the report.

## **POLICE SCOTLAND – PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2015/16**

**1815.** 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 2015/16. 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 Bates highlighted that overall performance had been positive given the fact that the number of crimes committed had reduced, and that whilst there had been an increase in sexual crimes these were historic and had contributed to a rise in the number of victims identified. He emphasised that the increase demonstrated that individuals had confidence in Police Scotland in reporting this type of crime. He invited Chief Inspector Carty to provide further details on the information contained in the performance report.

Chief Inspector Carty stated that overall crimes of violence in East Renfrewshire had reduced by 9.1% with a significant reduction in serious assaults. This meant that there were 10 fewer victims of this type of crime compared to the corresponding period last year and this represented a 55.6% reduction. She stated that as reported in the first quarter there had been an increasing trend in robberies with an additional 7 being reported as compared to the same period last year.

Whilst noting that when compared to the corresponding period last year the number of domestic abuse incidents had reduced and the proportion of offenders detected had increased to 84.7%, Chief Inspector Carty stated whilst there had been an increase in sexual assaults, some of these had been a result of retrospective enquiries carried out by a specialist department looking at historic crimes. Theft by housebreaking had reduced by 18.9% when compared to the corresponding period last year from 132 to 107 (i.e. 25 fewer victims of this type of crime) and whilst the detection rate was still below that of the corresponding period last year the figures had improved from those reported in the first quarter.

Concluding her remarks, Chief Inspector Carty, reported on the success of 'Operation Neighbourhood' launched to tackle the problem of housebreaking throughout the Greater Glasgow Division which had seen significant results in detecting known offenders across the division including East Renfrewshire. Furthermore, a national campaign targeting vulnerable road users had been launched in August 2015 resulting in a reduction in the number of children under 16 being seriously injured on the road.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Chief Superintendent Bates and Chief Inspector Carty provided clarification on a range of operational issues within East Renfrewshire. These included amongst other things, the measures being taken to address and methods used to record crimes of domestic abuse; the number of individuals apprehended in relation to the robberies detailed in the report and the positive measures being undertaken to tackle domestic abuse. Other matters discussed included the consideration of reports about historical child abuse, the problem of parents parking in and around schools in the mornings and afternoons and speeding in residential areas and the action being taken to address these problems.

The Cabinet noted the terms of the report.

## **POLICE PLAN 2016/17**

**1816.** Chief Superintendent Bates reported on the arrangements that were in place regarding the preparations for the publication of the National Police Plan 2016/17, in particular a wide ranging consultation exercise being carried out with stakeholders. Whilst noting that the National Police Plan was produced on an annual basis whereas local policing plans were prepared to cover 3 year periods, he stated that it was acknowledged that the national plan should be shaped to reflect the needs and priorities at a local level.

Concluding his remarks, Chief Superintendent Bates stated that as part of the consultation exercise, he would welcome comments from members of the Cabinet on what local priorities they considered should be included in the planning process for the production of the National Police Plan.

The Cabinet noted the position.

### **HM INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY IN SCOTLAND: INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE REVIEW: POLICE SCOTLAND – CALL HANDLING**

**1817.** The Cabinet considered the terms of the Independent Assurance Review: Police Scotland – Call Handling prepared by the HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland.

Chief Superintendent Bates explained that the assurance review had been commissioned by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Mr Michael Matheson MSP, following the tragic incident involving the deaths of Mr John Yuill and Ms Lamara Bell following a car crash on the M9 motorway. It was noted that HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland had been asked to provide an independent assessment of the operation, systems and procedures in place in police contact, command and control (C3) centres across Scotland. He explained that arising from the review a number of recommendations had been made which would be implemented by Police Scotland.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Chief Superintendent Bates commented briefly on the outcomes of the review particularly in relation to call handling. He referred to the performance statistics associated with call handling response times for both 999 and 101. It was noted that within control centres in the West of Scotland 94.2% of 999 calls were currently answered within 10 seconds and that 91.8% of 101 calls were currently answered within 40 seconds. Furthermore, the review had highlighted that almost 30% of 999 calls made to Police Scotland were an inappropriate use of the emergency service.

The Cabinet noted the position.

### **MODEL FOR IMPROVEMENT: SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT 4 – EAST RENFREWSHIRE RESIDENTS ARE SAFE AND SUPPORTED IN THEIR HOMES**

**1818.** The Cabinet considered an oral report by the Head of Democratic and Partnership Services advising that in June of this year the Community Planning Partnership Board had supported the introduction of methodology aimed at bringing about greater results and outcomes across the Single Outcome Agreement.

Whilst noting that the model was known as Plan Do Study Act (PDSA) and was designed to challenge traditional ways of working and bring closer focus to partnership or collaborative working to bring about desired results or outcomes, the Head of Democratic and Partnership Services advised that although East Renfrewshire enjoyed low levels of crime and antisocial behaviour a PDSA workstream lead by Chief Inspector Carty had identified a stretch aim. This was noted as “In order to improve public safety, we will reduce serious assault and common assault in East Renfrewshire by 15% by 2017.”

At this stage, Chief Inspector Carty summarised details of the workshops that had been held with community planning partners with a view to achieving the objective where consideration was given to the reasons behind why assaults took place and the ways in which this type of

crime could be tackled. She highlighted that officers from the Criminal Justice System, Council, Police Scotland, and Women's Aid had all participated in the workshops and that it was proposed to hold further workshops in the future to look at alcohol abuse and the ways in which preventative measures could be put in place to address the problem.

The Cabinet noted the position.

CHAIR

