

MINUTE
of
CABINET
(POLICE AND FIRE)

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

Present:

Councillor Mary Montague (Chair)
Councillor Jim Fletcher (Vice Chair)
Councillor Elaine Green

Councillor Alan Lafferty
Councillor Ian McAlpine
Councillor Vincent Waters

Councillor Montague in the Chair

Attending:

Lorraine McMillan, 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, Paul Tanzilli, and Group Manager, Stephen Wright, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Apologies:

Councillors Barbara Grant and Gordon McCaskill.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1438. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

POLICE SCOTLAND – PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF FINANCIAL YEAR 2014/15

1439. The Cabinet considered a report by the Divisional Commander, Police Scotland providing details of the performance of the police in East Renfrewshire over the third quarter of 2014/15. The 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 began by highlighting that since the inception of Police Scotland two years ago there had been continuous improvement the performance of the police

although he acknowledged that there had been some challenges over this period. In particular, there had been an increase in violent crime although these incidents had fallen due to the tactics being employed by the police at a local level.

At this stage, he invited Chief Inspector Carty to provide further details on the information contained in the performance report for the third quarter of 2014/15.

Chief Inspector Carty reported on the performance of the police over the reported period which was measured against the four priorities in the East Renfrewshire Policing Plan 2014/15. These were noted as Tackling Violence Disorder and Anti-Social Behaviour; Protecting People; Increasing Public Confidence and Local Engagement; and Tackling Serious Crime and Responding to Major Events.

Whilst noting that the last quarter report had indicated that serious assaults were increasing, Chief Inspector Carty indicated that this trend although not reversed had slowed during the third quarter of 2014/15. She advised that there had been an additional two serious assaults both of which occurred at the beginning of the quarter. Furthermore, although common assaults continued at levels above that of 2014 the increase had slowed and the statistics showed that Police Scotland were 16% above last year's figures on the second quarter and 6.5% above last year's statistics in the third quarter. This equated to 18 more victims of violence.

Chief Inspector Carty also advised that the detection rates for both serious assault and common assault remained at high levels and that the focus of Police Scotland was always to prevent violent crime from occurring, although where it did occur the police continued to work to detect the perpetrators. Reports of incidents of disorder throughout East Renfrewshire continued to fall with a 20.5% drop in complaints about disorder compared to the corresponding period in 2013/14. This equated 490 fewer calls being received by the police.

Commenting on crimes of domestic abuse it was noted that the detection rate remained high at 84.3%, an increase of 8.4% on the corresponding period in 2013/14. Chief Inspector Carty also made reference to hate crimes and indicated that the detection rate for this type of crime had fallen by 6.4%. However, arrangements were being made to make improvements in respect of this matter. She also indicated that the number of house break-ins had also increased although following the arrest of 5 individuals the number of house break-ins had fallen significantly.

Whilst noting that Police Scotland would publish multi-member ward policing plans based on the results of the annual community consultation survey and other forms of community engagement, Chief Inspector Carty advised that it was also proposed to publish quarterly updates outlining progress towards achieving the objectives outlined in the multi-member ward placing plans.

Concluding her remarks, Chief Inspector Carty stated that the local police would continue with its road safety initiative meaning that there would be a designated vehicle focussing on influencing road user behaviour. It was noted that as a result of this initiative, there had been a substantial reduction in the number of speeding offences which was down by 44%. In terms of tackling serious crime the sum of £11,565,231 had been seized through the use of Proceeds of Crime legislation although this figure related the entire Greater Glasgow Division.

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 the factors behind the

reduction in incidents of youth disorder and the measures being taken by the police in this regard and an explanation of the stop and search policy of Police Scotland which had been the subject of national media reports.

The Cabinet noted the terms of the report.

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2014/15

1440. 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 third quarter of 2014/15. 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 Tanzilli highlighted that there had been no fire fatalities within East Renfrewshire during the reported period following the positive trend of recent years. He also advised that figures for all non-fatal fire causalities which included pre-cautionary check-ups had fallen from 4 to 1 compared to the corresponding period last year. Furthermore, all deliberate fires within the quarter had risen slightly from 22 to 24 and this was largely due to an increase in deliberate refuse fires. It was noted that all accidental fires had reduced from 31 to 23 with a significant reduction in accidental dwelling house fires from 21 to 12. However, he advised that non-domestic fires had risen slightly from 3 to 8 during the reported period.

Whilst noting that the number of Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) had risen significantly from 3 to 8 during the reported period, Local Senior Officer Tanzilli stated that it was pleasing to note that the SFRS had no RTC fatalities as a consequence. He also indicated that one issue of concern was the total number of false alarms which had increased from 93 to 119. These figures included the number of false alarms – equipment failure arising from 65 to 85.

Concluding his remarks, Local Senior Officer Tanzilli summarised details of the community engagement activities that had been undertaken by the SFRS during the reported period. In particular, he highlighted the success of the Cook Safe initiatives two of which had been held at the Auchenback Resource Centre and Thornliebank Resource Centre.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Local Senior Officer Tanzilli provided clarification on a number of operational issues within East Renfrewshire. In particular, he emphasised that acts of anti-social behaviour towards the SFRS had significantly reduced across Scotland and welcomed the support the service had received from Sheriffs and Police Scotland in addressing this matter.

The Cabinet, having heard Councillor Montague wish Local Senior Officer Tanzilli a happy retirement, agreed to note the terms of the report.

CHAIR

