

MINUTE
of
CABINET
(POLICE AND FIRE)

Minute of Meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 25 September 2014.

Present:

Councillor Jim Fletcher (Leader)	Councillor Mary Montague
Councillor Tony Buchanan (Deputy Leader)	Councillor Gordon Wallace
Councillor Barbara Grant	Councillor Vincent Waters
Councillor Elaine Green	

Councillor Fletcher, Leader, 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 Group Managers Paul Nelis, and Stephen McCaffrey, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Apologies:

Councillors Alan Lafferty and Ian McAlpine and Local Senior Officer, Paul Tanzilli.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1220. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

POLICE SCOTLAND – PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2014/15

1221. The Cabinet considered a report by the Divisional Commander, Police Scotland providing details of the performance of the Police in East Renfrewshire over the first quarter of 2014/15. 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 began by introducing Chief Inspector Angela Carty who had replaced Chief Inspector Campbell Crawford as Area Commander. It was noted that

Community Police Inspector Alan Dickson and Local Authority Liaison Officer Sergeant Jim Boyle both remained in post. He invited Chief Inspector Angela Carty to present the report to the Cabinet.

Chief Inspector Carty summarised the performance of the Police over the reported period by reference to the four priorities identified in the East Renfrewshire Policing Plan 2014-17. These were noted as tackling violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour, protecting people, increasing public confidence and local engagement and tackling serious crime and responding to major events.

Whilst noting that crimes of violence had risen slightly in the first quarter of the year, Chief Inspector Angela Carty advised that detection rates had risen quite considerably with this year's detection rate for common assault being 79.4% compared to 63.6% for the corresponding period last year. Furthermore, incidents of disorder across East Renfrewshire continued to fall which was due in part to the success of the weekly meetings of Greater Results in Partnership (GRIP) where representatives of Council departments, Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service met to discuss community safety issues and make decisions about deploying joint directed patrols to those areas of concern identified through intelligence and analysis.

Chief Inspector Angela Carty also reported that there had been a 26.3% decrease in complaints from the public regarding disorder and this equated to 236 fewer calls. In addition, there had been a 15.1% increase in the detection rate of domestic abuse incidents in East Renfrewshire from 73.25% in the first quarter of 2013 to 88.3% for the corresponding period in 2014. She also referred to the detection rates for hate crimes and offences, drugs offences and housebreaking. It was also noted that due to robust enforcement from local officers and the Roads Policing Division this had shown an improvement in road user behaviour in East Renfrewshire.

Concluding her remarks, Chief Inspector Carty commented on the ways in which the Police were committed to increasing public confidence and engaging with the general public. This included amongst other things undertaking an annual community consultation survey and publishing Community Policing Plans arising from the consultation. She also indicated that the multi member ward meetings would continue in the future.

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 setting and monitoring of strategic policy for Police Scotland; the reduction in support staff numbers through voluntary redundancy or early retirement; the difficulties faced by the Police when investigating cases of domestic abuse; the importance of the general public reporting crimes to the Police; and how money recovered from the Proceeds of Crime legislation was used to tackle crime and provide community initiatives.

The Cabinet noted the terms of the report.

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR 2014/15

1222. The Cabinet considered a report by the local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), providing details of the performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in East Renfrewshire during the first 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.

Group Manager Nelis highlighted that during the reported period there had been 21 accidental dwelling fires which represented an increase from 12 in the corresponding period last year. In addition, there had been a significant reduction in the total number of deliberate fires within East Renfrewshire from 70 to 44 (i.e. 37%) as against the same period last year. It was further noted that once again there had been no fire fatalities during the reported period continuing the positive trend of no fire fatalities being recorded in East Renfrewshire in the previous five years. Fires in non-domestic properties continued to show a downward trend over the past 5-years with 2 fires occurring in 2014/15 compared to a figure of 7 for the corresponding period in 2013/14. However, there were 3 casualties resulting from Road Traffic Collisions and this was the same figure for 2013/14. The total number of false alarms attended had continued to decrease year on year since 2009/10.

Whilst noting that for the majority of the key performance indicators contained in the report there had been an overall reduction in activity from the previous reporting year, Group Manager Nelis summarised the community engagement activities that had been undertaken by the SFRS during the reported period. This included a total of 311 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) being delivered to East Renfrewshire residents. The SFRS Community Action Team (CAT) staff had delivered fire related safety education as part of East Renfrewshire's "Safety in the Park" event which had been attended by approximately 1,700 young people. He also reported that one fire reach course had been delivered to 12 young people in June 2014 at Clarkston Fire Station and that the SFRS had been in attendance at Auchenback Resource Centre Open Day event in August 2014 where the CAT team engaged with local residents and provided fire safety information. It was noted that the Telecare linked smoke detection initiative delivered in partnership between the SFRS and the Council had provided enhanced fire safety for individuals within the community who were identified as being at high risk from fire. The provision of linked smoke detection in previous years had resulted in the delivery of more than 1,500 HFSVs. As a result of this initiative, joint work had now recommenced and had resulted in a further 140 residents being fitted with smoke detection and received a HFSV in East Renfrewshire during the reported period.

Concluding his remarks, Group Manager Nelis made reference to the East Renfrewshire Local Fire Plan – Annual Operation Plan 2014/15, a copy of which was also appended to the report. He stated that the document had been produced to complement the East Renfrewshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014/17 and explained the outcomes which the SFRS wanted to deliver in East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde. The document also gave an overview of the way in which the service worked to achieve them over the annual period 2014/15.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Group Managers Nelis and McCaffrey provided clarification on a number of operational issues within East Renfrewshire. These included the ways in which the SFRS publicised HFSVs to local residents, an update on proposals for self-extinguishing cigarettes and the reluctance of developers to install sprinkler systems in new homes due to the cost.

The Cabinet agreed to note the terms of the report.

CHAIR

