

MINUTE
of
CABINET
(POLICE AND FIRE)

Minute of Meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 29 May 2014.

Present:

Councillor Jim Fletcher (Leader)
Councillor Barbara Grant
Councillor Elaine Green
Councillor Alan Lafferty

Councillor Ian McAlpine
Councillor Mary Montague
Councillor Vincent Waters

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 Campbell Crawford, Police Scotland and Local Senior Officer, Paul Tanzilli, and Group Manager, Stephen McCaffrey, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Apologies:

Councillors Tony Buchanan (Deputy Leader); and Danny Devlin.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1080. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

POLICE SCOTLAND – PERFORMANCE REPORT OVER THE FOURTH QUARTER AND YEAR END OF FINANCIAL YEAR 2013/14

1081. The Cabinet considered a report by the Divisional Commander, Police Scotland, providing details of the performance of the Police in East Renfrewshire over the fourth quarter and year end of financial year 2013/14. 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 stated that following the creation of Police Scotland on 1 April 2013 and the introduction of an interim one year policing plan for East Renfrewshire, the Council has subsequently approved a 3-year policing plan covering the period 2014-17. He stated that the Police were looking forward to carrying on their work in Year 2 of the plan. He also indicated that the Queens Baton Relay would be passing through East Renfrewshire on Wednesday, 16 July 2014 prior to the opening of the XX Commonwealth Games on Wednesday, 23 July 2014. He emphasised that there would be no adverse impact on the level of resources made available to East Renfrewshire during the course of the games. At this stage, he invited Chief Inspector Crawford to provide further details about the performance information contained in the report.

Chief Inspector Crawford reported that the fourth quarter results in respect of all the local priorities had been positive both year on year and at the year end. It was noted that violence, disorder and anti-social behaviour had fallen significantly over 2013/14 and this had been achieved by working smarter, through the Greater Results in Partnership (GRIP) meetings. These meetings which were held on a weekly basis had led to intelligence led targeted patrols and targeted stop and search activity, examination of crime and incident pattern analysis and listening to concerns raised by members of the public and elected representatives. During the course of 2013/14, these meetings had dealt with and resolved 394 problematic incidents.

Whilst noting that the figure for all serious crimes of violence over the previous 12 months had shown a fall from 43 in 2012/13 to 33 in 2013/14, representing a drop of 23.3%, Chief Inspector Crawford stated that robberies had fallen by 41.7% (i.e. from 12 in 2012/13 to 7 in 2013/14). Furthermore, there had also been a 10% reduction in the number of assaults across the authority's area meaning that there were 41 less victims. This had followed on from a drop of 125 the previous year. Incidences of drunkenness and disorder across East Renfrewshire continued to fall and this was as a result of joint working with Council officers including proactive visits to licensed premises combined with directed joint patrols with community wardens targeting those areas of concern as identified through intelligence and analysis. He highlighted that the number of complaints made to the police during the course of 2013/14 had fallen by 753 from 3,796 in 2012/13 to 3043 in 2013/14 or 19.8%, continuing the positive trend from 2012/13 where a 31% reduction in complaints had been recorded. Acquisitive crime continued to affect East Renfrewshire although over the last year housebreaking had been reduced by 46 or 15.3% with detection rates rising 1.1% to 13.7%. This followed a reduction of 22 or 6.7% in 2012/13.

The report also outlined a range of scrutiny and engagement measures undertaken during the course of the reported period. This included details of the operation of the Police management/Ward Councillor meetings which started in May 2013; an increase in officers being deployed on the night shift onto the streets following the reduction in opening hours of the front counters at both Barrhead and Giffnock Police offices; and the publication of the bi-monthly East Renfrewshire Police Newsletter.

Concluding his remarks, Chief Inspector Crawford also stated that the East Renfrewshire Twitter account continued to grow and had almost doubled in the last year to 1,945 followers and was the most followed local community police Twitter account in the Greater Glasgow division. He also indicated that he was having daily meetings with media outlets with a view to publicising incidents that had taken place in East Renfrewshire.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Chief Superintendent Bates and Chief Inspector Crawford provided clarification on a number of operational issues within East Renfrewshire.

The Cabinet noted the terms of the report.

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR 2013/14

1082. 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 2013/14. An analysis of the incidents in each of the Council's six wards for the period 2013/14 was appended to the report.

Local Senior Officer Tanzilli stated that having co-related the work undertaken in East Renfrewshire with others parts of Scotland, he had found similar themes appearing and that as a result of working in partnership with other agencies most incidents had decreased. He provided a summary of the operational activity analysis by reference to some of the key performance indicators (KPIs) in the report. He highlighted that there had been a 24% reduction in the total number of deliberate fires in East Renfrewshire from the previous reporting year. It was noted that this was mainly due to improved performance in the Barrhead ward area. He also indicated that there had been a 20% reduction in the total number of secondary fires attended compared to the previous year. It was pleasing to note that there had been no fire fatalities during 2013/14 it being noted that this was the fourth successive year that there had been no fire fatalities in East Renfrewshire. However, the report did state that there had been 19 accidental dwelling fires representing a slight reduction from 2012/13 and reflected a general downward trend since 2011/12. Fires in non-domestic properties continued to show a downward trend over the past 5 years. The total number of false alarms attended by the SFRS had continued to decrease year on year since 2009/10. In summary, the majority of the KPIs contained in the report showed an overall reduction in activity from the previous year.

The report also provided a range of community engagement activities that had been undertaken during 2013/14 including 939 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs), the delivery of 5 Cook Safe events to a total of 139 people in community groups. These events were targeted at potentially high risk groups such as Age Concern, those with dementia, mental health and supported independent housing for elderly residents. In addition, a four day Fire Reach course had been delivered in December 2013 to 9 pupils from four East Renfrewshire schools at Clarkston Community Fire Station. Fire safety presentations had also been delivered to approximately 1,800 S1 and S2 pupils from all high schools in East Renfrewshire in addition to which a number of primary and nursery schools had also received fire safety talks. It was noted that the SFRS had also participated in Safety in the Park in the summer of 2013 delivering fire safety education to young people and that the Cut it Out Road Safety presentation had been delivered to 108 pupils at Mearns Castle High School. He also indicated that the Telecare linked smoke detection initiative delivered in partnership between SFRS and the Council had provided enhanced fire safety for individuals within the community who were identified as being at high risk from fire. In addition to the provision of linked smoke detection, this initiative had resulted in the delivery of more than 1,500 HFSVs in previous years.

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.

The Cabinet agreed to note the terms of the report.

