

MINUTE
of
CABINET
(POLICE & FIRE)

Minute of meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 8 February 2024.

Present:

Councillor Owen O'Donnell (Leader)	Councillor Katie Pragnell
Councillor Andrew Anderson (Vice Chair)	Councillor Gordon Wallace(*)
Councillor Caroline Bamforth	

Councillor O'Donnell in the Chair

Attending:

Steven Quinn, Chief Executive; Louise Pringle, Director of Business Operations and Partnerships; Stephen Bell, Community Safety Manager; John Burke, Committee Services Officer; and Lesleyann Burns, Assistant Committee Services Officer.

Also Attending:

Superintendent Steven Meikle; Chief Inspector Graeme Gallie, (Area Commander); Chief Inspector Craig Brady; Inspector Michelle Grant, Police Scotland; Area Commander David McCarrey(*); and Group Commander Alan Coughtrie(*), Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

(*) indicates remote attendance

Apology:

Councillor Danny Devlin

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

724. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

POLICE SCOTLAND – PERFORMANCE REPORT - QUARTER 3 - 2023-24

725. The Cabinet considered a report by the Divisional Commander, Police Scotland, providing details of the performance of the police over the third quarter of 2023-24. The

744

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 2022-23.

Superintendent Meikle introduced himself as the replacement to Pat Murphy and thanked the Chair and the Committee, as well as all Police partner organisations, for their contributions to the collaborative approach that had led to the excellent statistics outlined in the report.

Chief Inspector Gallie then reported on the performance of the police against the five local policing priorities contained in the East Renfrewshire Policing Plan 2023-26.

On referring to the report, he recognised the significant impact acquisitive crime and in particular theft by housebreaking, had on communities and was pleased to report a significant decrease in that area. He advised that there had been a 54% reduction in housebreakings or attempt housebreaking offences across the 5 year average and a reduction in 41 offences compared to the previous year's figure of 92. There had also been a reduction in motor vehicle crimes, down 17% from the previous year..

In respect of crimes of dishonesty, it was reported that crimes of this type had decreased by 8% for the year. Theft by shoplifting and fraud had continued in their upwards national trend. Police were working with Retailers Against Crime and this approach had led to 62 detections, 1 in every 3 thefts by shoplifting.

In relation to public protection, it was noted that there had been an increase of 12 in sexual crimes and offences compared to the previous year, bringing the total to 94, which was in line with the 5 year average. Offences of communicating indecently and threatening/disclosure of intimate images had continued to increase. Police Scotland continued to work in partnership with Education colleagues and others to highlight the risk and harm of sextortion and inappropriate communications through social media messaging and Campus Officer inputs.

Commenting on violent crime, Chief Inspector Gallie reported an increase in Non-Sexual Crimes of Violence, with the total number of offences at 68 for the year, up 55 from the same period the previous year. There had been 18 serious assaults recorded during the year, 11% below the 5 year average, with 12 being successfully detected.

In terms of antisocial behaviour and disorder, 416 complaints had been recorded by the end of the quarter, which was 1% lower than the same period in the previous year. Hate crimes and hate incidents were also reported to have continued their downward trend, with hate incidents down 3% and hate crimes down 39%.

It was highlighted that a significant focus continued on wilful fire raisings, with 42 having been reported in the year. A whole systems approach was being taken to addressing the issues around these incidents, working with partners in a trauma informed approach to young people and their families.

In relation to drug dealing and use it was noted that recorded drug crimes had increased by 15% from the previous year, which had been achieved through active policing and intelligence gathering.

Chief Inspector Gallie concluded by giving some examples of the work being done in East Renfrewshire by officers of Police Scotland on all of the areas of focus covered, which were highlighted within the report.

There followed a question and answer session in the course of which Chief Inspector Gallie 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. In particular, there was on bonfire night briefings for members being provided to all Councillors, knife crime, fraudulent ticket sales on social media and the recent legislation on the regulation of XL Bully dogs. Members also referred to some particular incidents that had taken place in East Renfrewshire, receiving assurances from Police Scotland that those were being dealt with efficiently and effectively.

The Cabinet noted the report.

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (SFRS) PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2023-24

726. The Cabinet considered a report by the Group Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), providing details of the performance of SFRS in East Renfrewshire during the first quarter of 2023-24 against the key priorities in their local plan.

Introducing the report, Area Commander McCarrey referred to the work over bonfire night and the festive period in general. He extended his thanks to all partners who had been involved. He discussed a pre-consultation process starting around what SFRS would look like in the future, looking for views from all partners, stakeholders and members of the public. There would then be a 3 month consultation process, and more specific detail would be provided when it was available.

Group Commander Coughtrie then reported on the performance of SFRS on performance over quarter 3.

Firstly, Group Commander Coughtrie highlighted the “Make the Call” campaign run by SFRS to target the carers, family and friends of those at greatest risk of fire, encouraging them to put high risk individuals in touch with SFRS to allow a free home fire safety visit to be carried out and specific advice to be given. All local partners were called upon to assist in this campaign to ensure that it reached as many people as possible.

On engagement activity that had taken place and equipment supplied during the quarter, 42 community activities by the community action team and 78 by operational crews. 204 home fires safety visits were carried out, 106 of those in premises identified as high risk with 104 smoke detectors being fitted.

In relation to accidental dwelling fires a 25% decrease on the year on year figure was reported and an 8% increase against the 3 year figure. It was noted that detection was present in 92% of premises and activated in 82%. Details of some of the ongoing community work that took place was provided, with the high engagement rates in East Renfrewshire being noted. There had been 1 fire related casualty, with an individual taken to hospital as a precaution for slight smoke inhalation, there had been a reduction of 20% in the 3 year average on fire casualties. The Post-Domestic Incident Response Programme was also highlighted.

Group Commander Coughtrie reported that the figures in relation to unintentional injury and harm saw a 50% decrease in the year-on-year average and a small increase against 3 year average figures. However it was clarified that 37% of that activity was assisting other agencies. It was pointed out that the majority of this activity was in response to road traffic collisions. Details were provided on programmes aimed at reducing those incidents, including use of virtual reality technology.

746

Deliberate fire setting showed a 78% increase on the year on year indicator. This was reported as being against historically low figures, reflected against the fact that there was no increase in the 3 year average. The Community Action Team and Operational Crews continued to carry out engagement activity to mitigate the risk of this type of activity, working in partnership with Police Scotland and other partners. It was indicated that certain groups had been identified and were being worked with to reduce these figures, alongside ongoing work in schools and other engagement work.

Non-domestic fire safety showed a 43% decrease from the previous year and stable figure against the 3 year average. Details of the incidents were provided.

Group Commander Coughtrie concluded by providing information in relation to UFAS. The year on year figure had decreased by 71%, a decrease of 21% on the 3 year average. It was indicated that the majority of UFAS were within the care setting. UFAS Champions in place at each fire station were working with duty holders for premises to work on those issues.

There followed a question and answer session in the course of which officers McCarrey and Coughtrie responded to a number of questions and comments on a range of issues recorded in the report. Mainly, the discussion focused on any assistance the Council or HSCP could provide to assist with UFAS in care homes and driver education, particularly in terms of driving around schools..

Thereafter the Cabinet agreed to note the report.

CHAIR