

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

**Minute of Meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 13 February 2020.**

**Present:**

Councillor Colm Merrick (Chair)	Councillor Tony Buchanan (Leader)
Councillor Paul O’Kane (Vice Chair)	Councillor Barbara Grant
Councillor Caroline Bamforth	Councillor Stewart Miller

Councillor Merrick in the Chair

**Attending:**

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Caroline Innes, Deputy Chief Executive; Murray Husband, Head of Digital and Community Safety; Claire Reid, Community Safety Manager; and Paul O’Neil, Committee Services Officer.

**Also Attending:**

Chief Superintendent Hazel Hendren and Chief Inspector John McQuilter, Police Scotland, and Area Commander, Graham Binning, and Station Commander, Scott Macmillan, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

**Apology:**

Councillor Alan Lafferty.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**1185.** There were no declarations of interest intimated.

**POLICE SCOTLAND – PERFORMANCE REPORT 2019/20 - QUARTER 3**

**1186.** 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 the financial year 2019/20. The 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 2018/19.

Chief Superintendent Hendren reported that the performance of the police during the third quarter of 2019/20 had been positive in the course of which she highlighted various preventative measures that had been carried out which were designed to reduce the number of incidents taking place. She referred to the preparation of the Local Policing Plan 2020-23 for East Renfrewshire which had been the subject of a public consultation exercise during the course of November and December 2019 and to the number of responses received. It was noted that the new plan would highlight the community priorities that Police Scotland would be focussing on over period of the plan. At this stage she invited Chief Inspector McQuilter to report further on the information contained in the performance report.

Chief Inspector McQuilter reported on the performance of the police against the five policing priorities contained in the Local Policing Plan 2017-20, details of which were outlined in the report. Whilst emphasising the good partnerships that existed in East Renfrewshire including with the Council and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, which had contributed to the positive performance being reported, he highlighted that in the first 9 months of 2019/20 the police had received 195 fewer calls in relation to anti-social behaviour and disorder compared to the corresponding period in 2018/19. Similarly, it was noted that acts of vandalism were down by 39 from 341 in 2018/19 to 302 in the first 9 months of 2019/20.

Whilst noting that the number of serious assaults recorded had reduced compared to the corresponding period the previous year, Chief Inspector McQuilter reported that the number of common assaults continued to be higher than the figures reported in 2018/19. It was noted that due to the higher incidence of these types of crime this had resulted in an overall increase in crimes of violence in the first 9 months of 2019/20 compared to the corresponding period the previous year. He highlighted that a number of these assaults were categorised as domestic in nature and that compared to the same period the previous year, the number of domestic abuse crimes had increased from 185 to 257.

Chief Inspector McQuilter reported further that there had been a slight increase in sexual crimes and that in terms of acquisitive crime the number of victims of homes being broken into was down from 71 to 65 compared to the same period the previous year. In addition, the detection rate had also increased. It was noted that in relation to drug dealing and misuse the number of cases submitted to the Procurator Fiscal for persons involved in the supply, production and cultivation of drugs had decreased from 28 to 19 compared to the corresponding period the previous year. He highlighted that the police relied on intelligence coming from local communities in tackling this type of crime. Concluding his remarks, he referred to a number of good news stories that were outlined in the report including the arrest of a housebreaker, drugs seizures and the proactive work undertaken by officers over the reported period.

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

The Cabinet noted the position.

## **POLICE SCOTLAND – EAST RENFREWSHIRE LOCAL POLICING PLAN 2020-23**

**1187.** The Cabinet considered a report by the Divisional Commander, Police Scotland, on the East Renfrewshire Local Policing Plan 2020-23.

Chief Inspector McQuilter gave a short presentation on the East Renfrewshire Local Policing Plan 2020-23 which set out the local policing priorities for East Renfrewshire over the period of the plan. As previously intimated, following the public consultation exercise held during the course of November and December 2019, the top 5 priorities highlighted in the responses received from the public were noted as road safety (including speeding and dangerous driving); housebreaking; selling or using drugs; rowdy drunken behaviour in public; and vandalism/graffiti. It was noted that the plan would be submitted to the meeting of the Council on 27 February for approval and would thereafter be published in April 2020.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Chief Superintendent Hendren and Chief Inspector McQuilter provided clarification on the ways in which the public had been consulted in the preparation of the plan.

The Cabinet agreed to:-

- (a) **recommend to the Council** that the East Renfrewshire Local Policing Plan 2020-23 be approved; and
- (b) otherwise note the terms of the plan and presentation.

### **SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – PERFORMANCE REPORT 2019/20 – QUARTER 3**

**1188.** The Cabinet considered a report by the Area Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), providing details of the performance of the SFRS in East Renfrewshire during the third quarter of 2019/20. An analysis of the incidents identified in the six areas for demand reduction that had taken place in each of the Council's five wards during the reported period was outlined in the report.

Area Commander Binning began by emphasising the positive results contained in the report and the good partnership working that existed in East Renfrewshire among all partners including the Council and Police Scotland. He stated that he was delighted that there no fatalities recorded over the reported period and with the exception of both primary and secondary fires all other performance indicators showed a reduction. In terms of accidental dwelling fires there had been a slight increase from 17 to 19 in the current year with one casualty having been taken to hospital with slight injuries. Furthermore, it was noted that a total of 200 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) had been conducted with 158 smoke detectors being fitted.

Whilst noting that there had been only one accidental dwelling fire casualty during the reported period, Area Commander Binning highlighted that there had been a significant decrease in the number of non-fire casualties compared to 2018/19. He also referred to the number of incidents of deliberate fire setting it being noted that there had been an increase in deliberate fire setting both 'year on year' and in the 3-year average. He also highlighted that a high percentage of the deliberate primary fires involved vehicles, and that there had been a significant rise in this type of fire during the reported period. Reference was made to the fire that had taken place at Newton Mearns Primary School, Area Commander Binning commending the fire crews that had attended and had dealt with it so quickly and efficiently. He also referred to a range of engagement activities that had been undertaken by crews at both Barrhead and Clarkston Fire Stations.

Concluding his remarks, Area Commander Binning commented on the number of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) over the reported period in the course of which he highlighted that 30% of these incidents related to Education premises and were spread across all Council wards. He reported that it was proposed to pilot the 'Take 5' initiative which would go live during the next quarter the aim of which was to reduce the number of UFAS incidents in Council premises in East Renfrewshire. He advised that Station Commander Macmillan had been designated as the "UFAS Champion" in East Renfrewshire and invited him to comment on the matter.

Station Commander Macmillan highlighted that UFAS incidents accounted for 59% of all false alarms and were preventable. He explained that discussions had taken place with the Council in relation to the matter and as Area Commander Binning had stated it was hoped that the 'Take 5' initiative would help reduce the number of incidents in the future.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Area Commander Binning and Station Commander Macmillan provided clarification on a range of operational issues within East Renfrewshire, particularly the process now followed by SFRS in relation to making referrals about vulnerable individuals to the Health and Social Care Partnership.

The Cabinet noted the position.

CHAIR