

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

**Minute of Meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 21 November 2019.**

**Present:**

Councillor Colm Merrick (Chair)	Councillor Barbara Grant
Councillor Caroline Bamforth	Councillor Alan Lafferty
Councillor Tony Buchanan (Leader)	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; and Paul O'Neil, Committee Services Officer.

**Also Attending:**

Chief Superintendent Hazel Hendren and Chief Inspector John McQuilter, Police Scotland, and Group Commander Mark Gallacher and Station Commander David Fothergill, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

**Apology:**

Councillor Paul O'Kane (Vice Chair).

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**1100.** There were no declarations of interest intimated.

**POLICE SCOTLAND – PERFORMANCE REPORT OVER SECOND QUARTER OF FINANCIAL YEAR OF 2019/20**

**1101.** The Cabinet considered a report by the Divisional Commander, Police Scotland, providing details of the performance of the police over the second quarter of the 2019/20 financial year. 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 preparations were being made for the annual festive safety campaign; and the General Election being held on 12 December 2019. She also made reference to the introduction of the Contact Assessment Model which had gone live in October and that as reported at the last meeting officers were being issued with mobile smart devices to assist them in undertaking their daily duties. Concluding her remarks, she advised that the 3-year Local Policing Plan was due to be renewed and was at present the subject of a consultation exercise which would end on 31 December 2019. 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 5 local policing priorities contained in the Local Policing Plan 2017-20, details of which were outlined in the report. Whilst emphasising the good partnership working that existed within East Renfrewshire which contributed to the positive performance being reported, he highlighted that in terms Acquisitive Crime, the number of victims of homes being broken into had fallen by 9% compared to the corresponding period the preceeding year and that the detection rate for this type of crime had increased by 29%. Whilst noting that in terms of Violent Crime, serious assaults had fallen by 29% compared to the corresponding period the previous year, he explained that overall crimes of violence had increased by 11% compared to the corresponding period for 2018/19. Furthermore, there had been a reduction in the number of robberies from 6 to 3, although the number of common assaults had increased from 190 to 224.

Whilst noting that in terms of Public Protection, that there had been an 8% decrease in sexual/cyber crimes with 75 victims coming forward compared to 82 in the corresponding period the previous year, Chief Inspector McQuilter also reported that there had been a reduction in anti-social behaviour which was down by 11% in terms of the number of calls (i.e. 136 fewer calls) compared to the corresponding period in 2018/19 and that similar reductions had been recorded in terms of acts of vandalism which were down by 2% compared to the corresponding period the previous year and 17% against the 5-year average. He reported that the number of cases being submitted to the Procurator Fiscal for persons involved in the supply, production and cultivation of drugs had decreased from 16 to 8 compared to the corresponding period in 2018/19.

Concluding his remarks, he highlighted that Constable Jacqueline Petrie, the Local Authority Liaison Officer, had recently received an award from the Scottish Women's Development Forum for her contribution to the 'I AM ME' initiative.

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.

## **SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (SFRS) – PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2019/20**

**1102.** 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 second 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.

Group Commander Gallacher began by emphasising the positive results contained in the report and the good partnership working that existed in East Renfrewshire among all agencies such as the Council and Police Scotland. He referred to significant events that had taken place within East Renfrewshire in recent weeks, particularly the fire at Mearns Primary School and to the fact that there had been no acts of violence against fire crews in East Renfrewshire on bonfire night on 5 November. At this stage, he invited Station Commander Fothergill to comment further on the terms of the performance report.

Station Commander Fothergill stated that of the six areas for demand reduction in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan, a downward trend had been witnessed in four of them. Referring to the summary of activity that had taken place during the reported period, he highlighted that reductions had been recorded in all activities. Whilst noting that 73% of the incidents of accidental dwelling fires required no firefighting action, he emphasised that cooking was the main cause of this type of fire. It was noted that during the reported period a multi-agency event had taken place in the Auchenback area together with open days at Barrhead and Clarkston Fire Stations. Furthermore, a total of 382 Home Fire Safety Visits had taken place during the reported period, with no accidental dwelling fire casualties being recorded.

Whilst noting that there had been a decrease in the number of incidents of deliberate fire setting both year on year and against the 3 year average indicators, Station Commander Fothergill emphasised that a high percentage of deliberate fires were secondary in nature, involving refuse and these incidents had predominantly occurred within the Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor ward between the hours of 5.00pm and 10.00pm. Similarly, there had been a significant decrease in Non-Domestic Fires compared to the corresponding period the previous year. He highlighted that the three incidents that were recorded were all in the one ward and involved a variety of premises type. It was noted that there had been an increase in the number of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) incidents compared to the corresponding period the previous year albeit there had been a slight decrease as against the 3 year average.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Group Commander Gallacher and Station Commander Fothergill provided clarification on a range of operational issues within East Renfrewshire.

The Cabinet noted the position.

CHAIR

