

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

**Minute of virtual meeting held at 10.00am on 17 September 2020.**

**Present:**

Councillor Colm Merrick (Chair)  
Councillor Caroline Bamforth  
Councillor Tony Buchanan

Councillor Barbara Grant  
Councillor Alan Lafferty

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 Mark Sutherland, Chief Inspector Bryan McGeogh, Police Scotland; and Local Senior Officer Jim McNeill, and Group Manager Alan Coughtrie, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

**Apologies:**

Councillors Danny Devlin and Paul O'Kane.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**1359.** There were no declarations of interest intimated.

**OPENING REMARKS**

**1360.** Councillor Merrick welcomed Chief Superintendent Mark Sutherland to his first meeting of the Cabinet (Police and Fire) as the new Divisional Commander of the Greater Glasgow Division of Police Scotland following the recent retirement of Chief Superintendent Hazel Hendren. He also welcomed Local Senior Officer Jim McNeill and Group Manager Alan Coughtrie, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, to their first meeting.

**POLICE SCOTLAND – PERFORMANCE REPORT OVER THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2019/20**

**1361.** The Cabinet considered a report by the Divisional Commander, Police Scotland, providing details of the performance of the police over the first quarter of 2020/21. 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 2019/20.

Chief Superintendent Sutherland commented briefly on how Police Scotland had responded to the COVID-19 pandemic over the course of the last few months. He highlighted that the police had been directly impacted by COVID-19 in the course of which he indicated that at the outset, incidents of crime had reduced but were now increasing. At this stage, he invited Chief Inspector McGeogh to comment on the performance report.

Chief Inspector McGeogh reported on the performance of the police against the five local policing priorities contained in the East Renfrewshire Policing Plan 2017/20, details of which were outlined in the report. He began by highlighting that in terms of drug dealing and seizures the police had made several arrests and seized a quantity of controlled drugs with the number of detections having increased from 6 to 7 when compared to the corresponding period the previous year. He also reported that the number of crimes of violence and serious assaults had both reduced compared to the previous year. Another positive statistic was that the number of domestic abuse crimes had reduced from 88 to 83 compared to the corresponding period for the previous year. However, it was noted that the number of domestic incidents attended by the police had increased from 125 to 151 when compared to the corresponding period the previous year. The number of reported sexual crimes and acquisitive crimes had both seen a reduction compared to the previous year.

Concluding his remarks, Chief Inspector McGeogh reported that the police recorded an increase of 603 calls from the public in relation to anti-social behaviour over the reported period due largely in part to the fact that individuals were holding parties or there were large gatherings in parks and open spaces.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Chief Superintendent Sutherland and Chief Inspector McGeogh 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.

The Cabinet noted the terms of the report.

**SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (SFRS) PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2020/201**

**1362** The Cabinet considered a report by the Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), providing details of the performance of SFRS in East Renfrewshire during the first quarter of 2020/21. 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 Manager Coughtrie provided an overview of the activity during the reported period. He highlighted that during the course of 2020/21 there had been 14 accidental dwelling fires with 2 casualties arising from these fires. Similarly, in terms of unintentional harm and injury 2 non-fire casualties had been recorded. He reported that there had been 68 incidents of deliberate fire setting and 3 non-domestic fires.

Reporting that there had been 37 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals during the course of 2020/21, Group Manager Coughtrie highlighted that the cost to the service of attending these incidents was £72,890. It was noted that there had been a significant decrease in the number of UFAS incidents due to the COVID-19 pandemic and that almost half of the incidents reported were within care homes and sheltered housing. Group Manager Coughtrie also reported that in terms of accidental dwelling fires SFRS were only carrying out Home Fire Safety Visits to those individuals and properties considered as high risk. He also commented on the number of deliberate fire setting incidents by reference to each of the Council's wards and the increase in vehicle fires during the reported period.

Local Senior Officer McNeill stated that during the summer a typical deliberate fire would be individuals setting grass on fire. He also explained that SFRS were working in partnership with Police Scotland to tackle the problem of vehicle fires.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Local Senior Officer McNeill and Group Manager Coughtrie provided clarification on a range of operational issues within East Renfrewshire. In particular, details were provided of how SFRS proposed to continue community engagement activities especially in schools around 5 November each year, and that the weather would normally determine the number of deliberate fires that SFRS had to respond to during the course of each year.

The Cabinet noted the terms of the report.

CHAIR

