

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

**Minute of Meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 22 September 2016.**

**Present:**

Councillor Mary Montague (Chair)  
Councillor Jim Fletcher (Vice Chair)  
Councillor Barbara Grant

Councillor Stewart Miller  
Councillor Vincent Waters

Councillor Montague 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:**

Superintendent Jim Coubrough and Chief Inspector Angela Carty, Police Scotland; and Local Senior Officer David Proctor, and Group Manager Stephen Wright, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

**Apologies:**

Councillors Tony Buchanan; Danny Devlin; Elaine Green; Alan Lafferty; and Ian McAlpine.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**2194.** There were no declarations of interest intimated.

**POLICE SCOTLAND – PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2016/17**

**2195.** The Cabinet considered a report by the Divisional Commander, Police Scotland providing details of the performance of the police in East Renfrewshire during the first quarter of 2016/17. A statistical report giving a breakdown of various categories of crimes and offences committed during the reported period was appended to the report.

Superintendent Coubrough began by intimating an apology on behalf of Chief Superintendent McInulty who was unable to attend the meeting. He stated that Police Scotland's priority was to make improvements to the level of service it offered to the public. He invited Chief Inspector Carty to provide further details on the information contained in the performance report.

Chief Inspector Carty stated that crimes of violence had increased not only in East Renfrewshire but across Scotland. Whilst noting that there had been a 21.4% decrease in this type of crime (i.e. 3 fewer victims) compared to the corresponding period last year, she reported that there had been 5 more victims of serious assault where the detection rate was noted as 100% and 23 more victims of common assault when compared to the corresponding period last year.

Whilst noting that the number of domestic abuse incidents had fallen by 1.5% compared to the corresponding period last year, Chief Inspector Carty stated that the police were assisted in dealing with victims of this type of offence by Advocacy Support Safety and Information Services (ASSIST), East Renfrewshire Women's Aid and Victim Support. She reported that the detection rate for domestic incidents was 53.5% and whilst this was down on the figure reported in 2015 there was still significant work ongoing in relation to a number of enquiries which it was anticipated would bear fruit.

Chief Inspector Carty also reported that sexual crimes had increased from 12 in 2015 to 21 in 2016 (i.e. 9 more victims) although of the 21 victims referred to in the report, 6 of these were historic. Hate crimes had also increased during the reported period with 22 being recorded, 7 more than the corresponding period in 2015. She highlighted that Campus officers continued to support S3 pupils through the 'One Team' initiative promoting tolerance of differing cultures and religions.

The numbers of people seriously injured on the roads had risen by 1 to 4 compared to the corresponding period last year. It was further noted that Campus officers assisted by the Brake road safety charity and local retailers had held an event in Cowan Park involving primary school children from schools in Barrhead and Neilson, the aim of which was to provide information on road safety. Chief Inspector Carty reported that the number of houses broken into over the reported period was static compared to 2015 at 59 in the course of which she indicated that following a number of arrests in recent weeks the number of housebreakings had fallen. Furthermore, she indicated that the police had been focussing on the issue of drugs supply during the first quarter, where it was noted that there had been 10 detections for supply of controlled drugs in East Renfrewshire, compared to 9 in the same period last year.

Concluding her remarks, Chief Inspector Carty highlighted Police Scotland's new public consultation process 'Your View Counts' which had been launched recently, the aim of which was to seek feedback from members of the community on their satisfaction with the work of the police.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Superintendent Coubrough and Chief Inspector Carty responded to a number of questions and concerns that had been raised. These included amongst other things why the detection rate for domestic abuse incidents was quite low, concerns about the increase in common assaults and whether there were plans to reduce the total number of serving police officers throughout Scotland.

In reply, Chief Inspector Carty explained that in response to the detection rate for domestic abuse incidents, in general the police normally knows all the individuals responsible for the incidents. However, one of the difficulties in dealing with this type of offence was that the burden of proof must be sufficient enough to allow a case to go to court and this was why the detection rate was quite low. She also explained that the increase in common assaults was a concern to the police as it continued to rise not only in East Renfrewshire but across the Greater Glasgow Division.

Superintendent Coubrough responded to the question about whether the total number of police officers serving in Scotland would be reduced in the course of which he emphasised that there were no plans to reduce the Scottish Government's global figure of 17,234 police officers. However, he explained that like many Scottish local authorities, Police Scotland had to deliver substantial cuts to its overall budget and this was being achieved through efficiencies in terms of restructuring within the organisation and the use of Information and Communication Technology without having an impact on service delivery.

The Cabinet noted the terms of the report.

## **SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE – PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2016/17**

**2196.** 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 first quarter of 2016/17. An analysis of the incidents in each of the Council's six wards during the reported period was appended to the report.

Local Senior Officer Proctor began by thanking the Council for the comments it had submitted in response to the consultation on the SFRS draft strategic plan and that he would writing to the Council in the near future regarding the new Local Fire and Rescue Plan. At this stage, he invited Group Manager Wright to provide further details about the performance of the SFRS during the course of the first quarter.

Group Manager Wright highlighted that there had been no fire fatalities to report with only one fire casualty during the reported period although the individual had been treated as a precautionary measure only. He reported that accidental dwelling fires had decreased from 19 to 14 during the reported period as compared to the same quarter in 2015/16. However, there had been an increase in deliberate fires from 59 to 81 compared with the previous year and was mainly due to an increase in secondary fires within the Barrhead area. He indicated that pro-active engagement with partner agencies continued at the weekly Greater Results in Partnership (GRIP) meetings with a view to reducing incidence of such fires. He also reported that there had been a total of 4 fires in non-domestic properties which included commercial, industrial and local authority buildings. This represented a decrease from the figure reported in the last quarter and the same period last year and there continued to be ongoing a positive engagement with these types of premises by the Fire Safety Enforcement Team.

Whilst noting that the number of special services had decreased from 31 to 26 when compared to the same quarter last year and also reflected a reduction from the previous quarter, Group Manager Wright stated that the number of fire alarms had increased from 111 to 124 compared with the previous year although there had been no change from the previous quarter. Again, he highlighted that there continued to be a pro-active targeted approach to reducing unwanted alarms due to equipment failure, and this would remain a key area of improvement for SFRS in the coming months.

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Details of the community engagement activities undertaken by the SFRS during the reported period were also outlined in the course of which, Group Manager Wright stated that 346 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) had been carried out of which 108 were deemed as high risk and that the referral process to Social Work services which was now in place was contributing well to this effective performance.

Other activities included the continuation of the Telecare installations, work with local housing associations regarding unwanted fire alarm signals and partnership engagement work. The SFRS Community Action Team were continuing to work closely with the Council's Youth Services and were delivering Fire Reach courses to young people at risk of offending.

Concluding his remarks, Group Manager Wright stated that there was currently a partnership agreement between SFRS and Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) which allowed SAS resources to be based within a community fire station. Whilst noting that a pilot had now commenced utilising Barrhead as a tactical deployment point for an ambulance and its crew, he reported that engagement continued with the potential for an ambulance and crew to be based at Clarkston Fire Station with a view to providing an even more effective emergency medical response to East Renfrewshire and the surrounding area.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Local Senior Officer Proctor and Group Manager Wright responded to a number of questions about operational issues within East Renfrewshire. These included amongst other things the age groups of those starting deliberate fires, the success of the Telecare initiative and the agreement with the Scottish Ambulance Service.

Group Manager Wright explained that whilst SFRS did not have detailed information about the age groups of those starting fires, he indicated that normally the culprits were teenagers in the course of which Local Senior Officer Proctor emphasised that SFRS worked closely with colleagues in Police Scotland with a view to identifying the perpetrators as it was a criminal offence and was a common problem across Scotland. He also explained that the Scottish Ambulance Service wanted to use the Barrhead Fire Station as a tactical deployment point whereas at Clarkston Fire Station it was proposed to use this as permanent location.

The Cabinet noted the terms of the report.

CHAIR