

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

**Minute of Meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 24 November 2016.**

**Present:**

Councillor Mary Montague (Chair)  
Councillor Tony Buchanan

Councillor Barbara Grant  
Councillor Ian McAlpine

Councillor Montague in the Chair

**Attending:**

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Caroline Innes, Deputy Chief Executive; Jim Sneddon, Head of Democratic and Partnership Services and Jennifer Graham, Committee Services Officer.

**Also Attending:**

Chief Superintendent Brian McNulty 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 Elaine Green and Alan Lafferty.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**2282.** There were no declarations of interest intimated.

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

**2283.** The Cabinet considered a report by the Divisional Commander, Police Scotland providing details of the performance of the police in East Renfrewshire during the second 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.

Referring to the Policing 2026 Project which would develop a long term vision for policing, Chief Superintendent McNulty advised that further information on the project would be issued in January 2017. A new divisional structure had been introduced in early November, pulling together officers into local policing teams, supported by local problem solving teams whose aim would be to target longer term problems within communities. There would be two problem solving teams based within East Renfrewshire, one in Barrhead and one in Giffnock, but they would work together to cover the entire area. A full review of the new structure would take place in May 2017 and feedback was welcomed from Elected Members and local communities. Chief Superintendent McNulty referred to a number of personnel changes in the area including the retirement of Inspector Alan Dickson who had been replaced by Deputy Area Commander Inspector John McQuilter. Thereafter, he invited Chief Inspector Carty to provide further details on the information contained in the performance report.

Chief Inspector Carty referred to a recent joint workshop which had taken place with partners from East Renfrewshire Council and other agencies to address increases in common assault and anti-social behaviour. Information was provided relative to work being carried out across the City of Glasgow and the good practice and techniques which could be applied in East Renfrewshire to improve these statistics. She advised that the detection rates for common assaults remained below the figures for last year at 52.9% and although overall violent crime had reduced the number of serious assaults had increased. The number of robberies had reduced significantly from the same period last year and continued efforts would be made to deliver preventative messages as the festive period approached.

Chief Inspector Carty reported that the number of domestic abuse incidents had increased from 152 to 165 when compared to the corresponding period last year and the police continued to work closely with East Renfrewshire Women's Aid and other agencies to ensure that victims were referred to the most appropriate service. She referred to the National Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland which had been operational in Glasgow for just over a year and allowed information about abusive partners to be shared with potential victims, advising that, in the first two quarters of this year, one application had been received for East Renfrewshire.

The number of people seriously or slightly injured in road accidents had reduced compared to the corresponding period last year and concerns expressed about pupil safety in Eaglesham had led to road sign realignment and a commitment from East Renfrewshire Council's Roads Division to carry out a further visibility study. Static road checks had been carried out as part of the National Get Ready for Winter Campaign to ensure that drivers were prepared for the potential challenges of driving during the winter months.

Referring to statistics relating to Serious and Organised Crime she advised that 16 detections for supply of controlled drugs had been made in the quarter compared to 15 in the same period last year, and Police Scotland remained focussed on reducing the availability of drugs in communities.

Concluding her remarks, Chief Inspector Carty referred to the public consultation process "Your View Counts" which was launched in April 2016, advising that work had taken place to highlight the survey to community groups and schools resulting in a significant increase in responses during the second quarter.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Chief Superintendent McNulty and Chief Inspector Carty responded to a number of questions and concerns that had been raised. These included amongst other things detection rates, campus cops; and whether there were any plans to close local police offices.

In reply, Chief Inspector Carty clarified that the detection rate for serious assaults referred to in the quarter also included detection of crimes committed last year which had resulted in a detection rate of over 100%. She also confirmed that Campus Cops worked closely with the local problem solving team and would continue to carry out work within East Renfrewshire schools for the foreseeable future.

Chief Superintendent McNulty responded to the question about the possible closure of local police offices explaining that no plans had been made to close offices but the possibility of delivering services through shared facilities was being investigated to ensure that police officers were located in the most suitable areas. He confirmed that any proposals would be subject to a full consultation as appropriate. The Chief Executive confirmed that discussions had taken place regarding co-location but there were no viable options at present and this dialogue would continue with the focus on how we could jointly deliver better services for local communities.

Referring to the effects of domestic abuse on children and families, Councillor Montague highlighted that a lot of good work was being carried out locally and she would welcome a presentation at an appropriate forum in the future to update Elected Members on local initiatives to tackle domestic abuse.

Having heard Councillor Montague propose that a letter be sent on behalf of the Cabinet to Alan Dickson wishing him well for his retirement and thanking him for his hard work, the Cabinet noted the terms of the report.

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

**2284.** 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 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 advised that the report had been produced in a new format from previously and a comparison chart had now been included. At this stage, he invited Group Manager Wright to provide further details about the performance of the SFRS during the course of the second quarter.

Group Manager Wright highlighted that there had been no fire fatalities to report with only one non-fatal fire casualty during the reported period. He reported that accidental dwelling fires had decreased from 14 to 13 during the reported period as compared to the same quarter in 2015/16 and the number of deliberate fires had also reduced from 39 to 27 compared with the previous year. He also reported that there had been a total of 6 fires in non-domestic properties which included commercial, industrial and local authority buildings. This represented a decrease from the figure reported in the same period last year, and the total number of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal incidents had increased from 75 to 90 as compared to the same period in the previous year

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 573 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) had been carried out of which 57 were deemed as high risk.

Other activities included the continuation of the Telecare installations; delivery of a Fire Safety Presentation to Voluntary Action Scotland and attendance at two careers nights by the Community Action Team; and a pilot project involving sixth year pupils as Schools Emergency Services Ambassadors at Woodfarm High School.

Concluding his remarks, Group Manager Wright advised that the Local Area Liaison Officer (LALO) continued to attend weekly GRIP meetings within East Renfrewshire to provide statistics on fire related anti-social activity.

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 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals at Schools; the use of sprinklers in buildings; and the SFRS Strategic Plan 2016-19.

Group Manager Wright explained that Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals at Schools were not always as a result of malicious acts but could relate to detector maintenance or misuse of appliances. He advised that SFRS worked proactively with schools to ensure that pupils were aware of the risks involved fire appliances being called out to deal with false alarms. In response, Councillor Montague suggested that this issue be raised with the Education Department to allow appropriate steps to be taken regarding malicious acts. In response, the Deputy Chief Executive advised that she would liaise with SFRS officers to discuss the data for Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals at Schools and take action as appropriate.

Local Senior Officer Proctor reported that SFRS endorsed the use of sprinklers in all buildings, including domestic properties, and referred to a law which had been introduced by the Welsh Assembly outlining that sprinklers required to be installed in all new build domestic properties. Councillor Montague advised that she would raise this matter at Cosla. Referring to the SFRS Strategic Plan 2016-19, he advised that consultation on the content of a local plan would take place in the near future. The Chief Executive added that the East Renfrewshire Local Outcome Improvement Plan was due to be drafted by October 2017 and partners from Police Scotland and SFRS would be involved in discussions which would inform the plan.

The Cabinet:-

- (a) agreed that the Deputy Chief Executive would liaise with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service regarding Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal incidents at schools and take appropriate action as required; and
- (b) otherwise, noted the terms of the report.

CHAIR