

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

**Minute of Meeting held at 10.00 am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 26 May 2016.**

**Present:**

Councillor Jim Fletcher (Vice Chair)  
Councillor Tony Buchanan  
Councillor Barbara Grant  
Councillor Elaine Green

Councillor Alan Lafferty  
Councillor Stewart Miller  
Councillor Vincent Waters

Councillor Fletcher, 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:**

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 Mary Montague (Chair) and Ian McAlpine.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**2034.** There were no declarations of interest intimated.

**OPENING REMARKS**

**2035.** Councillor Fletcher welcomed Chief Superintendent Brian McNulty as the new Divisional Commander of the Greater Glasgow Division of Police Scotland following the recent retirement of Chief Superintendent Andy Bates and Local Senior Officer David Proctor of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service who had taken over from Local Senior Officer Martin Gordon who had moved to another post within the service.

**POLICE SCOTLAND – PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2015/16**

**2036.** The Cabinet considered a report by the Divisional Commander, Police Scotland, providing details of the performance of the police in East Renfrewshire over the financial year 2015/16. A statistical report giving a breakdown of various categories of crimes and offences committed during the reported period was appended to the report.

Chief Superintendent McNulty began his report by stating that it was an honour and privilege to have been appointed to his new position and that he was looking forward to building on the excellent partnership arrangements that had already been established in East Renfrewshire. Concluding his remarks, he paid tribute to the work of his predecessor Chief Superintendent Andy Bates. At this stage, he invited Chief Inspector Carty to provide further details on the information contained in the performance report for the financial year 2015/16.

The report highlighted that the performance of the police was measured against the four priorities in the East Renfrewshire Policing Plan 2014-2017 which were noted as Tackling Violence, Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour; Protecting People; Increasing Public Confidence and Local Engagement; and Tackling Serious Crime and Responding to Major events.

Chief Inspector Carty drew the Cabinet's attention to a number of notable statistics in the report. In particular, she indicated that there had been 2 more crimes of violence as compared to the figures reported in 2014/15. She also indicated that whilst there were 5 fewer incidents of serious assaults in 2015/16, the detection rate for this type of offence had fallen from 91.7% in 2014/15 to 79% in 2015/16. Furthermore, it was noted that the number of robberies were recorded as 16, an increase of 11 from 5 in 2014/15.

Whilst noting that the number of common assaults had also increased by 22 from 354 in 2014/16 to 376 in 2015/16, Chief Inspector Carty highlighted that the number of complaints the police had received from the public about disorder had fallen by 6.1% with 144 fewer calls being recorded in 2015/16 when compared to 2014/16. Details of the measures the police were taking to address this problem to achieve a positive outcome were outlined in the report. Similarly, the number of domestic abuse incidents reported to the police had fallen by 8.3% and the detection rate for this type of crime was noted as 83.1%. Consistent with the drop in reported domestic incidents there had been a fall in the numbers of those incidents recorded as crimes and the figure of 302 matched exactly the 5 year average in domestic crimes. However, it was noted that there was an upward trend in sexual offences although some of these were historical in nature.

Chief Inspector Carty stated that the number of housebreakings recorded in 2015/16 had reduced by 13% from the figure recorded in 2014/15 meaning that there were 35 fewer victims of this type of crime. She indicated that the detection rate for this type of crime had increased by 6.8% from the figure recorded in 2014/15 and that offences relating to Road Safety and Road Crime in 2015/16 had all seen reductions to those recorded in 2014/15.

Concluding her remarks, Chief Inspector Carty commented on the recent results of the public consultation relative to the public's confidence and satisfaction in the police. She advised that the latest results showed a public confidence rate of 81.2% and a satisfaction rate of 83.1%. It was also noted that between April 2015 and March 2016, 283 Serious And Organised Crime (SAOC) individuals had been arrested and police activity in the Greater Glasgow Division alone had helped deprive criminals of over £7,749,493 in cash and assets, seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

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

During the discussion, clarification was provided about the differences between common and serious assault and the factors taken into account when deciding which offence an individual should be charged with and that in most occasions the offences had taken place in or around licensed premises. Other issues discussed were the reasons behind the increase in sexual offences it being noted that public confidence had improved in reporting this type of crime. It was noted that another factor in the increase in this type of crime was the use of social media where more messages were being sent electronically which had the potential to cause offence.

In response to a question about officers using hand held devices to assist them in carrying out their duties, Chief Superintendent McInulty explained that whilst various pilots had been undertaken, work was ongoing at force level to determine the most appropriate type of equipment that officers should use given that the equipment chosen would require to be sustainable in the longer term. Concluding the discussion, Chief Inspector Carty explained that the police operated a zero tolerance policy towards hate crime whether it be homophobic, racially motivated, or sectarian in nature. Furthermore, abuse towards the police was not tolerated. She also explained that officers were tasked on a daily basis to target those areas where complaints had been received and she also outlined the measures that had been used by officers to tackle youth disorder.

The Cabinet noted the terms of the report.

## **SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2015/16**

**2037.** 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 fourth quarter of 2015/16. 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 giving an overview of his career to date highlighting that his former post was a Scotland-wide role involving bringing together the operations of the former fire brigades that operated in Scotland into the one national service. He indicated that it was pleasing to note that operationally there was not much activity in East Renfrewshire and this was a positive reflection on the educational and preventative work carried out by staff in the area to avoid fires starting. He invited Group Manager, Stephen Wright to provide further details on the information contained in the performance report.

Group Manager Wright reported that there had been no fire fatalities during the reported period and that whilst there was one fire casualty this individual had only been treated as a precautionary measure. Accidental dwelling fires had decreased from 20 to 15 during the reported period when compared to the same quarter in 2014/15. In addition, deliberate fires had increased from 25 to 31 when compared to the corresponding period the previous year although there had been a decrease in the numbers that were reported in the previous quarter.

Whilst noting that a total of 8 fires had taken place in non-domestic properties which included commercial, industrial and local authority buildings, Group Manager Wright stated that this represented a slight increase from the figures reported during the preceding quarter. However, there was ongoing positive engagement with these types of premises by the new

1918

Fire Safety Enforcement team. Furthermore, the number of special services had decreased from 32 to 30 when compared to the corresponding quarter the previous year. This also reflected a 14% reduction from the previous quarter. In addition, there was a 60% decrease in Road Traffic Collisions.

Whilst noting that the number of false alarms had increased from 105 to 113 compared with the previous year, Group Manager Wright stated this also reflected a 14% reduction from the previous quarter and was mainly due to a proactive targeted approach to reducing unwanted alarms due to equipment failure. He emphasised that this would remain a key area of improvement for SFRS in the coming months.

Group Manager Wright summarised the range of activities undertaken by SFRS during the reported period. These included Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV), Telecare Installations, Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals, Partnership Engagement and the work of the SFRS Community Action Team (CAT). It was noted that 471 HFSVs had been carried out during the reported period of which 233 were deemed as high risk and a referral process to Social Work services which was now in place was contributing well to this effective performance. He also stated that with regard to unwanted fire alarm signals the SFRS were continuing to work closely with local Housing Associations to help reduce the number of such alarm signals and equipment faults, particularly in sheltered housing units. In addition, HFSVs to vulnerable clients in independent living accommodation was also being provided.

Other notable activities included the work of the Community Action Team with the Council's Youth Services and were delivering Fire Reach courses to young people at risk of offending. During the course of the fourth quarter, one course had been delivered to 7 young people which had been a great success to both SFRS and Youth services.

Concluding his remarks, he stated that as previously reported that was a partnership agreement between SFRS and Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) which allowed SAS resources to be based within a community fire station. Early stages of engagement had commenced with a potential for an ambulance and a crew to be based at Clarkston to provide an even more effective emergency medical response to East Renfrewshire and the surrounding area. Consideration was also being given to utilising Barrhead as a tactical deployment point for an ambulance and its crew.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Local Senior Officer Proctor and Group Manager Wright provided clarification on a range of operational issues within East Renfrewshire.

During the discussion, Local Senior Officer Proctor emphasised the importance of the service being given the opportunity to visit someone's home to provide fire safety advice. He also indicated that as more smoke alarms were installed in homes etc, the likelihood of false alarms would no doubt increase. However, he expressed concern about the service having to attend a false alarm given the risks that were associated with fire crews attending a call out under a 'blue light' journey and that by doing so the crews were being diverted from attending a real fire should one be reported.

The Cabinet noted the terms of the report.

CHAIR