

MINUTE
of
CABINET
(POLICE AND FIRE)

Minute of Meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 28 May 2015.

Present:

Councillor Mary Montague (Chair)
Councillor Jim Fletcher (Vice Chair)
Councillor Tony Buchanan

Councillor Barbara Grant
Councillor Elaine Green
Councillor Gordon McCaskill

Councillor Montague, in the Chair

Attending:

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Caroline Innes, Deputy Chief Executive; and Paul O'Neil, Committee Services Officer.

Also Attending:

Chief Superintendent Andy Bates and Chief Inspector Angela Carty, Police Scotland; and Group Managers, Stephen Wright and Paul Nelis, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Apologies:

Councillors Danny Devlin; Alan Lafferty; Ian McAlpine; and Vincent Waters.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1553. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

POLICE SCOTLAND – PERFORMANCE REPORT OVER THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2014/15

1554. 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 2014/15. 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 Bates reported that this was the second year of operation of Police Scotland since it was established in April 2013. Commenting on the report, he indicated that whilst some of the performance results were disappointing, over the last 5 years there had

been an overall reduction in the crime statistics. He invited Chief Inspector Carty to provide further details on the information contained in the performance report.

Chief Inspector Carty reported that the number of serious assaults had increased significantly in 2014/15 with 24 being recorded as against 16 in 2013/14 which represented a 50% increase. However, she highlighted that over the last 5 years this type of crime had reduced.

Whilst noting that the end of year figures showed an increase in overall violent crime of 30% which equated to 11 more victims, the report highlighted that the current detection rates for serious assault 91.7%, common assault 71.3%, domestic crime at 84%, hate crime 71.2% and crimes of indecency 80%. Common assaults continued at levels above those recorded in 2013/14 being 1.7% above the figures recorded in 2013/14.

Chief Inspector Carty also stated the police were working in partnership with the Council to reduce the crime figures in the course of which she highlighted that the number of robberies, complaints of disorder and vandalism were all down on the figures reported in 2013/14. She indicated that recently the police had been targeting open green spaces where large numbers of youths had been gathering. She also explained that whilst domestic abuse crime had risen in the last year this reflected in an increased confidence in the way in which this type of crime was being dealt with by the police and other services where the detection rate for this type of crime was recorded as 83.1%.

The report also highlighted that the results of the public consultation survey had informed the preparation of the 2015/16 Multi Member Ward Plans and these had now been published. The police were also continuing their efforts to divert, disrupt, deter and detect individuals involved in serious crime and organised crime. It was noted that during the period April 2014 to March 2015 within the Greater Glasgow Division, 571 persons involved in serious and organised crimes had been arrested and that through the use of proceeds of crime legislation, criminals had been deprived of in excess of £14 million. This figure included restraints of assets, cash seizures and expedited referrals where criminal conduct or criminal purpose was suspected.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Chief Superintendent Bates and Chief Inspector Carty provided clarification on a range of operational issues within East Renfrewshire. These included details of known 'hotspots' such as Rouken Glen Park where as previously intimated large groups of youths had been gathering.

Other issues discussed involved consideration being given to the organisation of a visit to the new Police Scotland Headquarters at Dalmarnock in Glasgow and a seminar on organised crime; the methodology used in recording crime statistics and the tactics being employed by the Police in relation to stop and search activities and dealing with speeding motorists both of these statistics had seen a marked reduction over the last year.

The Cabinet noted the terms of the report.

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2014/15

1555. 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 2014/15. An analysis of the incidents in each of the Council's six wards during the reported period was appended to the report.

Group Manager Wright explained that there had been no fire fatalities in the reported period continuing the positive trend of no fire fatalities being recorded in East Renfrewshire in the previous 5 years. However, there had been an increase in 3 non-fatal fire casualties during the reported period although all 3 of the individuals were treated as a precautionary measure only. Furthermore, he indicated that accidental dwelling fires had increased from 10 to 19 during the reported period as compared to the previous year. He also indicated that there continued to be a very small number of deliberate dwelling fires within East Renfrewshire, with only one recorded in this quarter. In addition, deliberate fires had increased from 15 to 24 and this was due to the increase in secondary fires, particularly those involving refuse. The number of fires in non-domestic properties which included commercial, industrial and local authority buildings had continued to remain low in 2015 and this was in line with the figures reported during 2013/14. The total number of false alarms attended had decreased from 111 to 102 and this was mainly due to calls of good intent, or equipment failure, and would remain a key area of improvement for the SFRS in the coming months.

Concluding his remarks, Group Manager Wright summarised details of the community engagement activities that had been undertaken by the SFRS during the reported period. In particular, a total of 339 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV) had been carried out where SFRS staff conducted risk assessments, provided safety education and fitting free smoke alarms. Of these visits, 149 were deemed to be high risk and all sheltered complexes within the area remained a focus with all residencies receiving a visit. Telecare Installations continued with SFRS staff conducting home visits twice weekly. Other activities included unwarranted fire alarm signals, the Safety in the Park event which was a project organised by 'Magic Wand' a voluntary organisation in Barrhead and various partnership engagement initiatives. He also highlighted that a review was currently being undertaken of the 2014/15 annual operating plan for SFRS within East Renfrewshire with outcomes being assessed and plans being considered for the next operating year.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Group Managers Wright and Nelis provided clarification on a number of operational issues within East Renfrewshire. These included tackling the problem of deliberate fires in the Barrhead area including vehicle fires and that these matters were discussed in detail at the meetings of Greater Results in Partnership (GRIP). The problem of fire alarms being set off at business premises was also discussed and it was noted that this was normally due to the alarms being faulty or activated by mistake. It was also noted that in terms of the next operating year whilst the SFRS would have to make savings, there were no plans to close either Barrhead or Clarkston fire stations.

The Cabinet noted the terms of the report.

CHAIR

