

MINUTE
of
CABINET
(POLICE AND FIRE)

Minute of Meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 24 September 2015.

Present:

Councillor Mary Montague (Chair)	Councillor Ian McAlpine
Councillor Jim Fletcher (Vice Chair)	Councillor Alan Lafferty
Councillor Barbara Grant	Councillor Stewart Miller
Councillor Elaine Green	

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 Local Senior Officer, Martin Gordon, and Group Manager, Stephen Wright, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Apologies:

Councillors Tony Buchanan; Danny Devlin; and Vincent Waters.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1724. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

POLICE SCOTLAND – PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2015/16

1725. The Cabinet considered a report by the Divisional Commander, Police Scotland providing details of the performance of the police in East Renfrewshire over the first quarter of 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 Bates stated that performance in the first quarter of 2015/16 was positive in the course of which he reported on various national issues including the resignation of Sir Stephen House, Chief Constable, and the appointment of Mr Andrew Flanagan as the new Chairman of the Scottish Police Authority. He advised that the post of Chief Constable would be advertised in the near future. He also commented on the investigation into the M9 motorway tragedy and the operation of the call centres at both Govan and Motherwell. Concluding his remarks, he referred to the existing scrutiny arrangements of the police throughout Scotland and the proposals relating to the preparation of the Annual Police Plan 2016/17.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Chief Superintendent Bates responded to questions about the operation of police call centres in light of the M9 motorway tragedy and how calls were managed within the Greater Glasgow Division. He emphasised that the staff employed at both the Govan and Motherwell call centres had worked at these centres for a long time and possessed a good skill set and in view of this, he had no concerns about the management of calls at these centres. He also explained that the Motherwell call centre operated as an overflow for those calls not answered immediately by the Govan call centre. This arrangement demonstrated that calls were being managed efficiently. Whilst acknowledging the reduction in support staff since the creation of Police Scotland, he explained that this was being managed by changes to work practices with some police officers dealing with duties previously undertaken by support staff on a part time basis.

At this stage, he invited Chief Inspector Carty to provide further details on the information contained in the performance report for the first quarter of 2015/16.

Chief Inspector Carty stated that overall the performance in the first quarter had been good. She highlighted that crimes of violence had reduced by 14.3% compared to the corresponding period the previous year. Furthermore, serious assaults were down from 8 to 2 with the detection rate of 100%. However, robberies had seen an increase from 2 in the first quarter of 2014/15 to 3 in the corresponding quarter in the current year. Other statistics of note included a reduction in common assaults, disorder, street drinking and house breakings.

Whilst noting that the police continued to work with partners in the voluntary sector such as Victim Support which celebrated its 25 year anniversary in East Renfrewshire, Chief Inspector Carty highlighted that Women's Aid had recently carried out a number of presentations to officers in East Renfrewshire outlining the services they provided at initial incidents and over the longer term.

Concluding her remarks, Chief Inspector Carty commented on the recent presentation to the meeting of the Council on 16 September by Superintendent Andrew Gunn on the subject of Serious and Organised Crime. It was noted that during the first quarter of 2015/16, 139 serious and organised crime individuals had been arrested and police activity in the Greater Glasgow Division alone had helped deprive criminals of over £2,162,861 in cash and assets, seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

There followed a further 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. In particular, it was noted that the police remained focussed on reducing the availability of drugs in local communities and were acting robustly when information identified such criminality.

The Cabinet noted the terms of the report.

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE – PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2015/16

1726. 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 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 Gordon began by providing a summary of his career following his recent appointment to his current post. He highlighted that there had been one fire fatality in the reported period which had occurred on 28 May in the Barrhead area and involved a 70 year old male. This had been the first fire fatality in East Renfrewshire in 5 years. He invited Group Manager Wright to provide further details of the performance of the SFRS over the reported period.

Group Manager Wright reported that there had been 3 non-fatal fire casualties during the reported period, and that all 3 individuals had been treated as a precautionary measure only. Accidental dwelling fires had decreased from 21 to 19 during the reported period as compared to the corresponding period the previous year. He also highlighted that deliberate fires had increased from 44 to 58. On a positive note, there had been a reduction in deliberate vehicle fires with no incidents being reported in the first quarter. There had also been a total of 10 fires in non-domestic properties which included commercial, industrial and local authority buildings. Furthermore, there had been an 11% decrease in the number of special services. However, the total number of false alarms attended had slightly increased from 95 to 111 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.

Details of the community engagement activities that had been undertaken by the SFRS during the reported period were outlined. In particular, a total of 490 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) had been carried out where SFRS staff conducted risk assessments, provided safety education and fitted 3 smoke alarms. Of these visits, 269 were deemed as High Risk and all sheltered complexes within the area remained a focus with all residences receiving a visit. Linkages with East Renfrewshire's 19 sheltered complexes which incorporated 552 individual flatted properties had commenced and currently 4 sheltered complexes had been covered with a total of 120 HFSVs carried out, all high risk, which equated to a 95% success rate of available tenants.

Concluding his remarks, Group Manager Wright summarised details about Telecare installations, unwanted fire alarm signals, partnership engagement, and the work of the SFRS Community Action Team. He also highlighted that a review had now taken place of the 2015/16 Annual Operating Plan for SFRS within East Renfrewshire with outcomes and actions identified for this operating year. It was also noted that Her Majesty's Fire Inspectorate had also carried out a review of SFRS Community Safety Engagement within East Renfrewshire and although the formal report had not been published, the feedback had been very positive.

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

The Cabinet noted the terms of the report.

