

MINUTE
of
CABINET
(POLICE AND FIRE)

Minute of Meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 27 November 2014.

Present:

Councillor Barbara Grant
Councillor Elaine Green
Councillor Alan Lafferty

Councillor Ian McAlpine
Councillor Mary Montague

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 Andy Bates and Chief Inspector Angela Carty, Police Scotland and Local Senior Officer, Paul Tanzilli, and Group Manager, Stephen Wright, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Apologies:

Councillors Jim Fletcher (Leader); Tony Buchanan (Deputy Leader); Danny Devlin; Gordon Wallace; and Vincent Waters.

Chair

In the absence of the Leader and Deputy Leader, it was agreed that Councillor Montague would chair the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1299. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

POLICE SCOTLAND – PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF FINANCIAL YEAR 2014/15

1300. The Cabinet considered a report by the Divisional Commander, Police Scotland providing details of the performance of the police in East Renfrewshire over the second quarter of 2014/15. The statistical report giving a breakdown of various categories of crimes and offences committed during the reported period was appended to the report.

Prior to presenting the quarterly performance report, Chief Superintendent Bates responded to recent media reports stating that the crime detection rate in East Renfrewshire during the course of 2013/14 was the lowest in Scotland. He explained that the crime detection rate of 25% that was widely reported only related to crimes of dishonesty. He emphasised that this did not represent the real situation in East Renfrewshire in the course of which he indicated that during 2013/14, there had been a 17% reduction in the overall level of crime recorded in East Renfrewshire and this was one of the highest achieved in Scotland. Concluding his remarks, he also indicated that the crime rate in East Renfrewshire per 10,000 of population was 232 compared to a Scotland wide average of 508.

At this stage, he invited Chief Inspector Carty to provide further details on the information contained in the performance report for the 2nd Quarter of 2014/15.

Chief Inspector Carty stated that as previously reported, the performance of the Police was measured against the four priorities in the East Renfrewshire Policing Plan 2014/15. These 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.

Whilst noting that in 2013/14, reports of assault and serious assault had been at a historically low level, Chief Inspector Carty stated that unfortunately both of these types of offences had increased during the course of 2014. She reported that all the incidents relating to these offences had occurred in the Barrhead and Neilston areas, alcohol was a factor in the majority of the serious assaults and all perpetrators were male. She stated that despite the rise in assaults, the detection rate for serious assaults had risen by 22% and for common assault by 11.5%. Furthermore, reports of incidents of disorder throughout East Renfrewshire continued to fall with a 24.4% drop in complaints. This equated to 453 fewer calls being made to the Police. In addition, it was noted that acts of vandalism had also reduced by 10.45% with a 3.9% rise in the detection rate. Street drinking was also down by 35.8% and theft by shoplifting had reduced by 18.8%.

Commenting on incidents of domestic abuse, Chief Inspector Carty stated that there appeared to be increased confidence in the system for reporting this type of incident and this had resulted in an increase of 32.3% of incidents being reported to the Police. She also highlighted that in East Renfrewshire, the Police had achieved an 82.9% detection rate for crimes and offences committed in domestic abuse incidents. It was noted that housebreaking was an issue which continued to affect the residents of East Renfrewshire. However, the detection rate for this type of crime was up 9.6% during the second quarter of 2014/15. Furthermore, it was noted that as a result of the continuation of the road safety initiative in East Renfrewshire, there had been substantial reductions in the number of dangerous driving and speeding incidents. This had resulted in a 27.3% reduction in offences relating to dangerous driving and a 51.7% reduction in speeding offences.

Concluding her remarks, Chief Inspector Carty stated that the 2014 annual community consultation survey had just been completed with the results being published in February 2015. The results would be used to identify those issues affecting local people and the local priorities of the Police in 2015/16. She also highlighted that all officers in the Greater Glasgow Division were engaged in tackling serious and organised crime which was now a multi-billion pound industry in the UK and that through the use of proceeds of crime legislation, criminals had been deprived of £7,619,335.

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 the measures being taken to

reduce the number of serious assaults; the reasons why there had been a significant increase in domestic abuse incidents being reported and the action being taken in response to such incidents; partnership arrangements with the Council's Trading Standards Service in tackling rogue traders; the rationale behind the reduction in stop and search activities in East Renfrewshire compared to other parts of the country; and the future of campus cops.

The Cabinet noted the terms of the report.

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

1301. The Cabinet considered a report by the Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), providing details of the performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in East Renfrewshire during the second 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.

Local Senior Officer Tanzilli highlighted that during the reported period there had been a 33% decrease in the number of accidental dwelling fires down from 18 to 12 and an overall reduction in the total number of deliberate fires within East Renfrewshire from the same period last year. Furthermore, there had been a 10% reduction in this type of incident during the school holiday period. He also highlighted that there had been no fire fatalities during the reported period and this continued the positive trend of no fire fatalities having been recorded in East Renfrewshire over the last 5 years. However, he stated that there had been one non-fatal fire casualty during the reported period. Again, this continued to reflect the very low fire casualty figures within East Renfrewshire.

Whilst noting that fires in non-domestic properties which included commercial, industrial and local authority buildings continued to show a downward trend, with 5 fires occurring in 2014 compared to a figure of 8 for the corresponding period in 2013/14, Local Senior Officer Tanzilli highlighted that the total number of false alarms attended had increased from 110 to 132. He explained that the increase was mainly due to calls of good intent, or equipment failure, and this would remain a key area of improvement for the SFRS in the coming months. Malicious false alarm calls continued to show year on year reduction, and currently showed a favourable 73% reduction base on a 3-year average.

Concluding his remarks, Local Senior Officer Tanzilli summarised details of the community engagement activities that had been undertaken by the SFRS during the reported period. This included a total of 365 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) being delivered to East Renfrewshire residents. Other activities involved Safety in the Park, Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals, the Cooksafe initiative, Doors Open days, Bonfire Resilience Arrangements and Bonfire/Fireworks Education. He also highlighted that an event was held at Barrhead Fire Station to celebrate its 50th Anniversary of operation.

There followed a short question and answer session in the course of which Local Senior Officer Tanzilli provided clarification on a number of operational issues within East Renfrewshire. These included advertising campaigns on tv/radio highlight the importance of fire safety; the measures being taken by SFRS in dealing with false alarms; tracing those who make malicious fire alarm calls; and the organisation of fire safety initiatives for vulnerable groups.

The Cabinet agreed to note the terms of the report.

