

## LOCAL POLICE & FIRE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 19 SEPTEMBER 2019

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### Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 19 September 2019 at 3pm

**Present:** Councillors Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Jackson, J McEleny, McVey, Moran and Quinn.

**Chair:** Councillor McVey presided.

**In attendance:** Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources, Mr I Hanley (Community Safety & Resilience), Head of Environmental & Public Protection, Mr J Douglas (for Head of Legal & Property Services) and Ms S Lang (Legal & Property Services).

**In attendance also:** Chief Superintendent A Murray, Chief Inspector D Reilly and Inspector A Martin, Police Scotland, Area Manager G Binning, Group Manager D McCarrey and Station Manager M Meehan, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service.

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener welcomed to the meeting, Tony McEwan, newly appointed Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources and Chief Superintendent Alan Murray who had recently taken up post as Divisional Commander of K Division, following the retiral of Chief Superintendent Gordon Crossan.

**The following paragraphs are submitted for information only, having been dealt with under the powers delegated to the Committee.**

<b>573</b>	<b>Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest</b>	<b>573</b>
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An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor MacLeod.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

<b>574</b>	<b>Presentation by Police Scotland on the Digitally Enabled Policing Programme</b>	<b>574</b>
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The Board heard a presentation by Inspector Martin on the roll-out across Scotland of 10,000 smart phones to operational officers at constable, sergeant and inspector level, replacing the paper notebook.

Inspector Martin explained that with the new mobile devices, officers would be able, while remaining in the community, to access email addresses, check bail conditions, carry out safety checks, access the voters' roll, access the STORM Command and Control System, take witness statements and submit crime reports, minimising back office demand. It was noted that the local roll-out date was 14 October 2019.

In response to questions from Members, Inspector Martin clarified the following points:-

- (1) When accessing the STORM System, filters were applied, defaulting to K Division after input of the incident number;
- (2) The system was much more secure than the existing paper notebook with all information backed up. While the information was obviously searchable, data could not be interrogated without notification of the reason for this;
- (3) The system had been penetration tested and the devices were waterproof;
- (4) The battery life of the devices was estimated to be approximately three years,

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after which there would be a refresh which had been built into the financial planning. In terms of charging, options were available for re-charging through the normal charger, in-car charger, charging hubs within police stations and small power banks;

(5) Digital Evidence Sharing Capacity (DESC) was not in place at present but would be looked at for the future. At present, advice had been received from the Crown Office that devices should not be used to take photographs except in certain specific circumstances including images of domestic violence and that no videos should be taken except in the case of dying declarations; and

(6) There was no capability to alter the text of electronic witness statements at the point of signature.

### 575 Police Scotland Performance Report: 1 April 2019 – 30 June 2019

575

There was submitted an updated report on the performance and activities of Police Scotland during the reporting period 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2019.

(Councillor Curley left the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

During the course of discussion on this item, Chief Superintendent Murray referred to the position in relation to Roads policing. He indicated that despite the assurance given at the Committee in September 2018 that there would be no diminution in service, changes in circumstances had undoubtedly resulted in altered service provision. He assured the Committee that he would continue to make representations for increased provision within K Division although it was not anticipated that levels would return to what they had been before the relocation of the Roads Policing Unit to Govan.

#### **Decided:**

- (1) that the information contained in the updated report be noted;
- (2) that a Members' Briefing be made by Police Scotland on the Contact Assessment Model for the risk assessment and prioritisation of calls;
- (3) that the position regarding deliberate car fires in Inverclyde be reported to the next meeting of the Committee; and
- (4) that the Convener write to Police Scotland, on behalf of the Committee, expressing concern regarding the position in relation to Roads policing and seeking a response to the changes in service provision.

### 576 Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Performance Report: 1 April 2019 – 30 June 2019

576

There was submitted a report on performance and activities of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service during the reporting period 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2019.

(Councillor Curley returned to the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

During the course of discussion on this item, reference was made by Councillor McVey to a recent press article which referred to a claim that Scottish fire crews were taking almost 40 seconds longer to respond to incidents than a decade ago and he asked if any statistics were available in respect of the Inverclyde area.

In this regard, Area Commander Binning indicated that the statistics referred to in the press article were for the period 2011–16 and were therefore at least three years old. He did not anticipate any significant change in the response figures for Inverclyde, (which were not a published performance indicator) primarily because of the particular geography of the area but he undertook to request further information from the Service.

#### **Decided:**

- (1) that the information contained in the report be noted; and
- (2) that information be provided to the Committee on incident response times for the

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Inverclyde area.

Councillor Curley left the meeting at this juncture.

### 577      **Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee Update Report (September 2019)**      577

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on current and emerging issues relating to both Police and Fire & Rescue Services.

**Decided:** that the information contained in the report in respect of current and emerging national issues relating to Police and Fire & Rescue matters be noted.

### 578      **Inverclyde Community Safety Partnership Update Report (September 2019)**      578

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on current work within the Inverclyde Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Strategy Group.

In particular, the Committee noted the update on the roll-out of fire safety training to Inverclyde HSCP homecare staff across the authority area. The Scottish Fire & Rescue Service had advised that this covered 400 staff with a resulting increase in home fire safety visits from homecare staff.

(Councillor Moran left the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

**Decided:**

- (1) that the information contained within the report be noted; and
- (2) that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee on issues in respect of water safety including (a) the number of working groups currently in operation and the position in respect of representation by HM Coastguard, (b) the position in respect of the work undertaken to identify bodies of water across Inverclyde and the status of the risk assessment to be undertaken and (c) the position in respect of water safety promotion by the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service within secondary schools in Inverclyde.

### 579      **Scottish Government Consultation – Strategic Police Priorities for Scotland**      579

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval to submit a response to the Scottish Government consultation in respect of strategic police priorities for Scotland.

**Decided:**

- (1) that approval be given to the responses contained within the consultation; and
- (2) that it be noted that Elected Members had the opportunity to make further comment regarding the consultation by 26 September 2019, prior to the submission deadline of 3 October 2019.

### 580      **Clune Park Regeneration Plan – Deliberate Fire Raising and Vandalism**      580

There was submitted a report by the Head of Environmental & Public Protection providing an update on an ongoing issue regarding deliberate fire raising and vandalism in the Clune Park Area, Port Glasgow.

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**Decided:**

- (1) that the prevalence of deliberate fire raising and vandalism within the Clune Park Regeneration Area be noted; and
- (2) that the actions being taken in response be noted.