

LOCAL POLICE & FIRE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 16 SEPTEMBER 2021

Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 16 September 2021 at 3pm

Present: Councillors Clocherty, Crowther, Jackson, MacLeod, J McEleny, McVey, Moran, Murphy, Quinn and Wilson.

Chair: Councillor McVey presided.

In attendance: Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources, Service Manager Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport, Ms R Dillon (for Interim Head of Service Public Protection & Recovery), Ms A Sinclair (Interim Head of Legal Services), Ms S MacMaster, Ms L Carrick and Ms D Sweeney (Legal Services), ICT Services Manager and Service Manager Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety.

In attendance also: Chief Superintendent D Duncan and Community Inspector D Durk (Police Scotland) and Area Commander D McCarrey and Station Commander A MacLean (Scottish Fire & Rescue Service).

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Clocherty, Crowther, Jackson, MacLeod, Murphy, J McEleny, Moran and Quinn attending remotely.

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

367 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 367

No apologies for absence or declarations of interest were intimated.

368 Police Scotland Performance Report 368

There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of Police Scotland during the reporting period 1 April 2021 to 31 July 2021.

During the course of discussion on this item reference was made that with the recent introduction of the Contact Assessment Model overall waiting times to the non-emergency 101 number may have increased. It was agreed that Police Scotland will submit a report to the next Committee on how they assess and respond to contact from the public.

Members expressed concerns regarding speeding within the Inverclyde area, seeking reassurance that Police Scotland have a sufficient number of officers trained in the use of speed detection devices. Chief Superintendent Duncan confirmed that a number of officers are now fully trained to use such devices, which allows them to enforce speed restrictions.

Decided – that the information contained in the report be noted.

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369 Police Scotland – Operation Urram (COP26 Climate Summit) 369

Chief Superintendent Duncan provided the Committee with a verbal report on Operation Urram, the Police Scotland security arrangements for the COP26 Climate Summit. Chief Superintendent Duncan answered a number of questions in relation to his briefing.

Decided – that the update be noted.

370 Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Performance Report 370

There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service during the reporting period 1 April 2021 to 30 June 2021.

During the course of discussion on this item, reference was made to the Scottish Government changes to fire alarm regulations. Area Commander McCarrey confirmed that the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service will not routinely be fitting the new style fire alarms in homes. The Scottish Fire & Rescue Service will provide a battery operated smoke detector and advise occupants about the new standards for fire and smoke alarms required by the legislation introduced by the Scottish Government. Members raised concerns with regard to financial support and funding on this matter, and following discussion it was agreed that the Convener will write to the Scottish Government on behalf of the Committee seeking clarification on what financial support and funding will be made available.

Councillor Wilson left the meeting during discussion of this item.

The Committee then heard a presentation by Area Commander McCarrey “Time for Change: Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)” on the consultation into reducing the number of UFAS. Area Commander McCarrey advised the Committee that three options have been developed which may achieve a reduction in false alarms and added that a 12 week public consultation will run until 11 October 2021.

Decided:

- (1) that the information contained in the report be noted;
- (2) that the content of the presentation be noted; and
- (3) that the Convener write to the Scottish Government on behalf of the Committee seeking clarification on financial support and funding with regard to the new fire alarm regulations.

371 Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee Update Report (September 2021) 371

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.

The Service Manager, Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport advised the Committee of an error in the report and, accordingly, at paragraph 5.3 the Committee were asked to note that officers did not submit the consultation response by the 20 August 2021 deadline.

Decided: that the current and emerging national issues relating to Police and Fire & Rescue matters be noted.